

THE COMPLETE
LETTER WRITER,
OR
YOUNG SECRETARY'S
INSTRUCTOR.

CONTAINING
A great Variety of LETTERS,
ON

FRIENDSHIP,
DUTY,
LOVE,

MARRIAGE,
AMUSEMENT,
BUSINESS, &c.

To which are prefixed,

Plain Instructions for Writing LETTERS
on all Occasions.

By H. W. DILWORTH, A. M.

NEW-YORK:

Printed for BENJAMIN GOMEZ,
Bookfeller and Stationer, No. 32, Maiden Lane.

1793.

Samuel



THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER.

LETTER I.

A Son's Letter at School to his Father

Honoured Sir,

I AM greatly obliged to you for all your favours; all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for the same. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all conspire to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement, and your satisfaction, and to shew myself upon all occasions,

*Your most obedient,
and ever dutiful Son,*
ROBERT READ.

LETTER II.

A Letter of Excuse to Father or Mother.

Honoured Sir,

I Am informed, and it gives me a great concern that you have heard and ill report of me,

which I suppose was raised by some of my school fellows, who either envy my happiness, or by aggravating my faults, would be thought to seem less criminal themselves; though I must own I have been a little too remiss in my school business, and am now sensible I have lost, in some measure, my time and credit thereby, but by my future diligence I hope soon to recover both and to convince you that I pay a strict regard to all your commands, which I am bound to as well in gratitude as duty, and hope I shall ever have leave, with great truth, to subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful Son,
WILLIAM COLLINS:

LETTER III.

A young Gentleman's Letter abroad, to his Father in England.

Honoured Sir, ¹⁵ OCT 61 *June 24th, 1754.*

THIS is the sixth letter I have sent you by divers Ships, since Michaelmas last, which I hope, all came safe to hand. I have nothing new or particular, to communicate, only beg you would conceive so favorable an opinion of me, as to believe I prosecute my Studies with the greatest application, well knowing that will prove the greatest recommendation to your favor at present, and the most real service to myself in time to come. All our friends here present their best respects to you, and that you may

LETTER - WRITER.

5

continue in health and happiness, is the constant prayer of,

Sir,

Your most dutiful Son,
JAMES MITCHELL.

LETTER IV.

From a Young Apprentice to his Father, to let him know how he likes his Place, and goes on.

Honoured Sir,

I KNOW it will be great satisfaction to you and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business, and my master seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and hope I shall answer in time, your good offices and expectations, and the indulgencies which you have always shown me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress's part as on my master's, that every servant as well as I, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful sweet temper'd woman, and rather heals breaches than rives them; and the children after such examples, behave to us all like one's brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish when it shall please God to put me in such

a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does, and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress; and then, by God's blessing I shall be as happy as they are; and as you Sir, and my dear mother have always been. If any thing can make me happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours and my good mother's prayers for, honored Sir, and Madam,

Your very dutiful Son.

LETTER V.

Letter from a Youth at School to his parents:

Honoured Father and Mother,

YOUR kind letter of the 24th instant I received in due time, and soon after the things you therein mentioned by the carrier, for which I return you my sincere thanks. They came very opportunely for my occasions. I hope soon to improve myself at school, though I own it seems a little hard and irksome to me as yet; but my master gives me great encouragement, and assures me I shall soon get the better of the little difficulties that almost every boy meets with at first, and then it will be a perfect pleasure instead of a task, and altogether as pleasant and easy as it is now irksome and hard.

My humble duty to yourselves: and I beg the favour of you to give my kind love to my brothers and sisters, and remember me to all my

friends and acquaintance, which is at present all from,

Your very dutiful and obedient Son,
CHARLES GOODENOUGH.

LETTER VI.

*Letter from an Apprentice in Town, to his friends
in the Country.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

THE bearer, Harry Jones, came to see me last night, and told me he should set out for home the next morning. I was not willing to let slip the opportunity of sending you a letter by him, to let you know I am very well, and like both my master and mistress, and by what I can yet see of it, the business extremely well, and do intend (please God) to use my utmost endeavors to make myself master of every thing that belongs to it, in which I shall have treble satisfaction; first in pleasing my master, secondly in pleasing my friends; and thirdly, in benefiting myself. I have but little leisure, nor do I want a great deal, but will take every opportunity to let you know how I go on, and that I am, with great gratitude,

Your very dutiful and most obedient Son,

T. R.

LETTER VII:

*To a Mother to thank her for her Care and
Tenderness.*

Honoured Madam,

I HAVE written twice to my brother, and not doubting but he would inform you of my being well, I have taken the liberty of omitting writing to you. I beg you will be pleased to hear the reasons that weighed with me against a very earnest inclination, that whether you tell I was right or not, you may acquit me of the charge of disobedience or want of respect as well as gratitude.

The pain with which I saw you parted from me on the road has made an impression on my heart, which time will never wear out; and I hope as it will always keep in my remembrance your tenderness as well as care for me, that beside the natural right all your commands have to obedience from me, I shall, on another principle avoid every thing that is wrong, lest it should give you disquiet.

I should be unnatural and unpardonable not to have the most sincere regard for the peace of your mind, and for its composure: God prevent that it should do any thing that might affect the first and I shall hope my true concern will guard me against every thing that might disturb the latter: indeed madam the cares of this, prevented my writing, I feared that a letter from me, be the contents ever so indifferent, might

recal my remembrance too fully before you, and that the same pain might attend it, as did your parting with me. This was the only reason of my not writing before; and in the most sincere truth, I have done violence to myself in omitting that testimony of my duty and respect.

As to occasions of writing, I have yet none, more than to tell you that I do not forget to whom I owe my attention; and to say how great a happiness it will be to me to receive your farther thoughts as to things that are about me: I have yet entered into no acquaintance with them, being determined as far as my youth and scanty judgment may allow of it, to consider them before I mix among them: For this purpose, I have hitherto kept within the house, where partly from the conversation of my relations, and partly from that of other persons of their acquaintance who visit them, and some of whom are persons of very respectable talents, I settle in myself some character of the several persons I am likely to meet with, and of the occurrences which may fall in my way; but of all this, having not yet established within myself any firm opinion, I shall take the freedom to write to you.

The greatest subjects of my consideration, madam, are the instructions and the cautions you gave me; these will never be out of my remembrance; and altho' perhaps the tenderness of the parent, or the fears of the mother, may have represented some of these in stronger lights than they are ordinarily seen, yet when I compare them with the observations I have yet had op-

portunities of making I find them all most perfectly just, and all very necessary.

No person I am sure ever had the happiness of a more affectionate mother, and I am fully persuaded, that the great experience you have had of the world, will render you, more than most people, able to judge of the course of things; I think it a great happiness that so excellent adviser is so much concerned in my welfare; and I do promise you, madam, in the most sincere manner, that I will always prefer to all other considerations in the world, the admonitions which you shall be pleased to give me. I shall also look upon myself as accountable for the last articles of my conduct to you, as well as to God and my own heart, and it will scarce be a greater obligation upon me to do in every thing as I ought, that the eye of that all-seeing Judge is upon me, than that any wrong step in my behavior will, besides throwing myself into difficulties make you unhappy.

You cannot know, madam, how much, and how gratefully I think of your care in placing me where I now am; where under the eye of a good and prudent person, I have an opportunity to consider of my future conduct, and to see things before I am placed among them; and to consider this great world, before I may be said to make a part of it. I see it is as terrible as well as a profitable scene of action; I have already set down many things which I shall avoid like death, and which I should else perhaps have fallen into heedlessly: I hope my future experience will shew me many more. Indeed on the little

that I see at present, I cannot wonder that of the youths who at my unthinking and rash time of life, are let loose into the danger, and never consider it till they are in the midst of it, if they ever consider it at all, the greater part are ruined. I hope I shall profit even by their misfortunes; but whatsoever advantages I have over the rest of the young men I meet withal, I shall always remember with a due gratitude, that I owe them to you.

I pray daily that you may continue in all respects happy. You'll let my brother know. madam, that I shall endeavor to think of all things as he would have me; he has taught me to write long letters; but if it be not tedious to you, I cannot think the time it has taken me, could be more worthily employed; nor can I count that a trouble, which besides that it is a duty, and satisfaction to myself, will give you pleasure.

*I am, honoured Madam,
With all Duty and Affection,
your obedient Son.*

LETTER VIII.

From a mother to her Son, in answer to the former.

Dear Child,

I HAVE this moment read your letter, and I am set down to write to you. Where corresponding is a trouble, people may defer it to the

latest hour ; but why should I deny myself a moment the pleasure of conversing with you ? My dear continue in the thoughts you have at present, and you will add all that can be now thrown into the portion of my happiness. I interrupt myself by casting my eye over and over upon your letter, and the fulness of my heart prevents me of my informing you of its sensations. If you should see more blots than this which is just now made in my writing, do not wonder or be uneasy. I will not dissemble to you they are made by tears ; but dearest son, these are tears that flow from transport, which has no other expression. Sure no mother was ever happier in her children. Your brother is esteemed, nay, he is almost adored by every body ;— your sister is settled to an advantage that was beyond my utmost expectations ; and yet she is so good a woman, that her husband thinks himself under everlasting obligations. You my dear Jack, were my only care ; and I had more fear for you than all ; as the youngest, that is child, the latest remembrance of your honored father, you had a larger share of my tenderness than either, and you were destined to a scene of the greatest danger. Heaven alone can tell what have been my anxieties and fears about you, and how continual my prayers for your security. They are all granted, and instead of being as I feared you would be, an occasion of continual alarm to me, you were adding more than any of them to my contentment.

I know your good heart, and I can see what a joy it is to you to perceive you make me happy

in such a mind as yours, there can be wanting no other motive to be good, beside the excellence of virtue ; but I am sure if this were not sufficient, that the very thought that your mother's peace depended upon your conduct, would keep you in the way of goodness.

My dear child, regard your brother, no person is so able to advise you, and he loves you with more than the common affection of the relation ; he admires your good sense, and he esteems your principles: Dear son, think what an honor it is to have the esteem of so excellent a man, think what a happiness it is to have so fine a character at so tender an age as yours ; and as you show me how much my satisfaction is an object of your concern, remember what a transport it must be to me to hear of you so favorably.

I shall not repeat to you, my dear, the cautions which I gave you, for I see you will not need to be put again in remembrance ; only reverence truth, be acquainted with no one till you know he deserves it, and avoid bad women.

If it can give you satisfaction, and I am sure it will do so, to hear that every thought of your heart has my perfect approbation, you hear it truly ; but although there is not any in the least part of your conduct that does not give me pleasure, there is altho' you will be surprised to hear it, something in your brothers with respect to you, that gives him pain. He told me of your asking his advice upon an inconsiderable subject and his giving it to you rather honestly than

elegantly: Dear child, take care of your heart, and you may be less uneasy about your expression, let your thoughts be good, and never be uneasy about the words You put them in. The books recommended to You may be good for nothing, but you have no occasion for any; nor is it a pin matter in the affairs of life, whether you put every word where it should be. But this is all a trifle: nor shall I pretend to enter into the matter; if it be worth any consideration, he is the best judge, so pray mind him; but what I speak of is the manner in which he says he wrote of your cousin:

My dear, always respect your elders, and do not let any little school boys lesson put you above them in your own opinion, because they have forgotten it; nor because your cousin is a plain man, do you suppose he is less capable to advise you. He is a person of undoubted probity and uprightness of heart, and that is worth all the Greek and Latin of Westminster and Eton; he has made his way to a plentiful fortune, and he has the respect and esteem of all that ever he was concerned with. Would you wish for a better character or better fortune? God send you may conduct yourself through the world, just as he has done, I that would weary heaven with prayers for you, wish you nothing better. I do not pretend to say your brother is wrong in his judgment about this matter; for I do not understand the nature of it; all that I know is you will never write a letter that will please me more than this you have sent already; and I think had I been in his place I would not have

put any thing into your mind upon an occasion of so little consequence, that should have abated Your regard for a person who's advice will be of service to you. But I know you will not do so. Preserve, I desire You, that respect for him which his years and his integrity, and his success in the world require; and whatsoever You may think about this trifle, do not let it lessen Your esteem for one whom Your mother recommends to You.

My dear, I have said more upon this subject because it seems the only one which You are in danger to err; and I have thought it the more necessary to say so, because the regard I desired you to pay to your brother, might have rendered it a kind of duty to go into this error. I have spoke to him about it, and he desires me to say that he is perfectly of my opinion.

Farewel, my dearest boy; you have a very easy task before you; seeing you are already so good, that you need only go on in the same path to make all that love you happy.

Your affectionate Mother.

THE COMPLETE
LETTER IX.

From a daughter to her father, wherein she dutifully expostulates against a Match he had proposed to her, with a Gentleman much older than herself.

Honoured Sir,

THOUGH Your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible that the duty which I owe You binds me to comply with them. Besides I should be very ungrateful, should I presume, in any point whatever considering Your numberless acts of parental indulgence towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the consequence therefore should prove never so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in my own defence should have no influence over you, or thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which unhappily for me you seem to approve of. 'Tis very possible, Sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice may be possessed of all that substance and all those good qualities, that bias You so strongly in his favour; but be not angry, dear Sir, when I remind You that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady of more experience, and more advanced age, would in my humble opinion, be a much fitter help-mate for him. To be ingenuous (permit me, good Sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve for once) a man almost in

his grand climacteric, can never be an agreeable companion for me ; nor can the natural gayety of my temper, which has hitherto been indulged by Yourself in every innocent amusement, be ever agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take ; Yet as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he'll grow jealous, and forever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though never so harmless and inoffensive ; permitted to see no company ; hurried down perhaps, to some melancholy rural recess ; and there like my lady Grace sit the play, sit pensive and alone, under a green tree. Your long experienced goodness, and that tender regard which You have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate wth you on an affair of so great importance. If however after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favor, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is a large fortune and a coach and six to throw into the scale ; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory commands upon me to resign up all my real happiness and peace of mind, for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgement. Give me leave, however, to observe, that 'tis impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never

made the least attempt before to thwart the inclination of,

His ever obedient daughter.

LETTER X.

To a young Lady, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentlemen of a bad Character.

Dear Neice.

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, not long since deceased, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you, rather by letter than by word of mouth, that the town rings of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedom that you take with Mr. Trippet. You have been seen with him (if same lies not) in the side boxes of both theatres, at the blue-coat hospital on a Sunday night, and afterwards to a certain tavern, not a mile from thence, which is a house (as I have been credibly informed) of no good repute. You have both, moreover, been seen at Ranelagh assembly, Vauxhall gardens; and what is most flagrant, at Cupar's fire-works. Dont imagine, neice, that I am in the least prejudiced, or speak out of any private pique; but let me tell You, familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is none of the best, and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner by two very virtuous Young ladies of

my acquaintance, who entertained a too favorable opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as You have no great expectation from your relations, and he has an annuity, as 'tis reported, of 200*l*. a year left him by his uncle, that You may be tempted to imagine his addresses an offer to Your advantage. 'Tis much to be questioned, however, whether his intentions are sincere; for notwithstanding all the fair promises he may possibly make You, I have heard it whispered that he is privately engaged to a rich, old doating lady not far from Hackney. Besides, admitting it to be true, that he is really entitled to the annuity above mentioned, Yet it is too well known that he is deeply in debt; that he lives beyond his income, and has very little, if any regard for his reputation. In short, not to mince the matter, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his raillery and ridicule.

All things therefore duly considered, let me prevail on You, dear niece, to avoid his company as You would a mad man; for, notwithstanding I still think You strictly virtuous, Yet Your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. As I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for Your interest and welfare, I flatter myself You'll put a favorable construction on the liberty here taken by

*Your affectionate Friend,
and affectionate Aunt.*

LETTER XL.

*From an elder Brother in the Country, to his
younger Brother put Apprentice in London.*

I AM very glad to hear you are pleased with the new situation into which the care of your friends have placed you ; but I would have you pleased not with the novelty of it, but with the real advantage. It is natural for you to be glad that you are under less restraint than you were, for a master neither has occasion nor inclination to watch over a youth so much as his parents : But if you are not careful, this, although it now gives you a childish satisfaction, may, in the end, betray you into mischief ; nay, to your ruin. Though your father is not in sight, dear brother, act always as if you were in his presence ; and be assured, that what would not offend him, will never displease any body.

You have more sense, I have often told you so, than most persons at your time. Now is the opportunity of making a good use of it ; and take this for certain, every right step you enter upon now will be a comfort to you for life. I would have your reason, as well as your fancy, pleased with your new situation, and then you will act as becomes you. Consider brother, that the state of life that charms you so at this time, will bring you into independance and affluence, and that you will by behaving as you ought now, be at one time master of a house and family ; have every thing about you at your command, and have apprentices as well as ser-

wants to wait upon you. The master with whom you are placed was some years ago in your situation; and what should hinder you from being hereafter in his? All that is required is patience and industry; and these, brother, are a very cheap price at which to purchase so comfortable a condition.

Your master, I am told had nothing to begin the world withal: In that he was worse than you; for if you behave well there are those who will set you up in a handsome manner. So you have a sufficient inducement to be good, and a reward always follows it. Brother farewell.—Obey your master, and be civil to all persons; keep out of company, for boys have no occasion for it, and most that you meet with is very bad. Be careful and honest and God will bless you.—If ever you commit a fault, confess it at once;—for the lie in denying is worse than the thing itself. I think I need not say more to so good a lad as you, to induce you to continue so.

Your affectionate Brother.

LETTER XII.

Advice from a Father to a young Beginner, what Company to chuse, and how to behave in it.

Dear Robin,

AS You are now entering into the world, and will probably have considerable dealings in Your business, the frequent occasion You will

have for advice from others, will make You desirous of singling out, among Your most intimate acquaintance, one or two, whom You would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of these, Your utmost care and caution will be necessary, for, by a mistake here, You can scarcely conceive the fatal effects You may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for You to make a judgment of those who are fit to be Your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world. For he who has by his own indiscretions undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a land mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow.

Old age is generally slow and heavy, youth headstrong and precipitate; but there are old men who are full of vivacity, and Young replete with discretion; which makes me rather point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom you should chuse to associate, though after all, it is a never failing good sign to me of prudence and virtue in a Young man, when his seniors chuse his company, and he delights in theirs.

Let your endeavors therefore be, at all adventures to consort Yourself with men of sobriety, good sense, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one that says, A man is known by the company he keeps. If such men you can single out, while you improve by their conversation, You will benefit by their advice; And be sure remember one thing, that tho' you must be frank and unreserved in delivering Your sen-

timents, when occasion offers; Yet that you be much readier to hear than to speak, for to this purpose it has been significantly observed, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therefore by observation and modest silence, such a store of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worse figure than they do; and endeavour to benefit yourself rather by other people's ills than your own.

How must young men expose themselves to the contempt and ridicule of their seniors, who having seen little or nothing of the world, are continually shutting out, by open mouths and closed ears, all possibility of instruction: and making vain the principal end of conversation, which is improvement? A silent Young man, makes generally a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men, when, therefore, you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments: by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts which they would have been glad to recal; when perhaps a silent genius in company has burst out upon them with such observations, as have struck consciousness and shame into the forward speaker, if he has not been quite insensible to inward reproach.

I have thrown together, as they occurred, a few thoughts which may suffice for the present, to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I hope You will from time to time, communicate

to me whatever you shall think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you; for I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me. And of this, you may be assured; for I am and ever must be,

Your affectionate Father,

LETTER XIII.

To a Friend, on occasion of his not answering his Letters,

Dear Sir,

IT is so long since I had the favor of a line from you, that I am under great apprehensions in relation to your health and welfare. I beg you Sir, to renew to me the pleasure you used to give me in your correspondence; for I have written three letters to you before this, to which I have had no answer, and am not conscious of having any way disobligeed you. If I have, I will most willingly ask your pardon, for nobody can be more than I am,

Your affectionate and faithful Friend, and servant,

LETTER XIV:

In Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

YOU have not, cannot disoblige me; but I have greatly disobligeed myself in my own

faulty remissness; I cannot account for it as I ought. To say I had business one time, company another, was distant from home a third, will be but poor excuses, for not answering one of your kind letters in four long months. I therefore ingenuously take shame to myself, and promise future amendment, and that nothing shall ever, while I am able to hold a pen, make me guilty of the like neglect to a friend I love. Forgive me then, my good, my kind my generous friend; and believe me ever: Yours, &c.

LETTER XV.

From a father to a son, on his negligence in his affairs.

Dear Jemmy,

YOU cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Remissness is inexcusable in all men, in none so much as in men of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence and punctuality.

Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted: quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreation, and apply to your computing house with diligence. It may not be too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expences; and then see which of the latter you can, and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a

man suffers himself to go backwards in the world it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it is too late, upon the inconveniencies which an impoverished trader is put to, for the remainder of his life, which too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered; the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly, the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how on the contrary, from being born to creditable expectations he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to the most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for? and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction beyond the present hour, if in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse when he comes to reflect. Think seriously of these things and in time, resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your mind, comfort to your family; and which will give, at the same time, the highest satisfaction to,

Your careful and loving Father,

LETTER XVI.

From a Young Gentleman at the University, to a Family Acquaintance, to borrow Money.

Sir,

THE death of my Father soon after his putting me to this place of education, and many other accidents in which my own conduct has had no concern, have involved me in difficulties, which threaten altogether to impede my progress in my studies, and prevent the means which I hoped were in my power to get my bread; for through the utter want of friends, under which I labor, I cannot expect preferment. But with this Sir, I should be satisfied. The reason of my writing to you upon the melancholy occasion is, Sir, what I have already mentioned my entire want of friends, I know you are so distant a relation, that I can have no right to expect any favor from you upon that account; but I have heard my father often mention your name and always with the greatest respect. Sir, if you entertain the same remembrance of him that he always did of you; and if your fortune is so plentiful as I am told, perhaps you will not only pardon the present application, as strange as it may seem from one you never saw, but may comply with my request of supplying me with fourteen pounds seven shillings which will answer all my present demands, and perhaps before new difficulties fall upon me, I may find some friend to relieve me farther. I only request of you, Sir.

if you decline this, not to be offended at the presumption of the application, because I would avoid nothing so carefully, as offending those whom my father valued.

*I am, With the greatest respect Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant.*

LETTER XVII.

From a substantial Tradesman to a very distant Relation asking Money. In Answer to the former.

Dear Cousin,

IF you knew what was the nature of that friendship with which your father honored me, your letter would have been written in a stile of less humility; or if I had known he had a son unprovided, the occasion of such a letter would have been prevented.

Sir, whatsoever be the case of my present circumstances, I owe it all to your father, and God forbid I should not return it to you. Your father, Sir, advanced the money with which I was put out; and when I was out of my time, the same friend lent me the sum with which I set up and assisted me afterwards in all my difficulties; it is true, I repaid him the money, but the obligation can never be repaid. I have ordered twenty pounds to be paid to the stage coachman who will take charge of it, and bring it to you; and I pray you to let me know the nature of your affairs at college, for my low education has given me no knowledge of this, and whatever is ne-

cessary, you shall most willingly receive from me. Look no farther, Sir, for a friend, for you shall want no other. When it is your time of coming away for your holidays; let my house be your home: and dear young man, if you can condescend to humble yourself so far, be for the future my son. A wise restriction from your father prevented my marrying when I was very young since that time my mind has been taken up with business; and at the years I am now, I am sure I never shall. He little supposed, that in preventing my marrying foolishly, he was providing a father for a destitute son of his own; but heaven orders all things right. Pray write to me again immediately.

I am, Your faithful Friend.

LETTER XVIII.

From a Town Tenant to his Landlord, excusing delay of Payment.

Honoured Sir,

I AM under a great concern, that I cannot at present answer your just expectations: I have sustained such heavy losses, and met with so many disappointments of late, that I must intrude another quarter to your goodness. Then, whatever shifts I am put to, you shall hear to more satisfaction than at present, from,

Sir, Your most humble Servant,

LETTER XIX.

From a Country Tenant to the same Purpose.

Honoured Sir,

THE season has been so bad, and I have had such unhappy accidents to encounter with in a sick family, loss of cattle, &c. that I am obliged to trespass upon your patience a month or two longer. The wheat-harvest, I hope, will furnish me with means to answer your just expectations, which will be a great contentment to.

Your honest Tenant, and humble Servant.

LETTER XX:

The Landlord's Answer.

Mr. Williams,

I Have your's; I hope you will be as good as your word, at the expiration of the time you have mentioned. I am unwilling to distress any honest man; and I hope I shall not meet with the worse usage for my forbearance; for lenity abused, even generous tempers, provoke returns, that some people would call severe; but should not be deemed such, if just.

I am Yours, &c.

LETTER XXI.

A young Woman in Town to her Sister in the Country recounting a narrow Escape from a Snare laid for her on her first arrival by a wicked Procurefs.

Dear Sister,

WE have often by our good-mother, been warned against the dangers that would probably attend us in coming to London, though I must own, her admonitions had not always the weight I am now convinced they deserved.

I have had a deliverance from such a snare, as I never could have believed would have been laid for a person free from thought of ill, or being near succeeding one so strongly on her guard, as I imagined myself. And thus, my dear sister the matter happened,

Returning on Tuesday, from seeing my cousin Aitkins, in Cheapside, I was overtaken by an elderly gentlewoman, of a sober and creditable appearance, who walked by my side some little time before she spoke to me, and then guessing by my asking the name of the Street, that I was a stranger to the town, she very courteously began a discourse with me; and after some other talk, and questions about my country, and the like, desired to know if I did not come to town with a design of going into some genteel place? I told her, if I could meet with a place to my mind, to wait upon a single lady, I should be very willing to embrace it. She said, I looked

like a creditable, sober, and modest body, and, at that very time, she knew one of the best gentlewomen, that ever lived, who was in great want of a maid to attend upon her own person, and that if she liked me, and I her it would be a lucky incident for us both.

I expressed myself so thankfull, and she was so very much in my interest, as to intreat me to go instantly to the lady, lest she should be provided and acquaint her. I was recommended by Mrs. Jones, not doubting as she said, but, on enquiry, my character would answer my appearance,

As that, you know, was partly my view in coming to town, I thought this a happy incident, and determined not to lose the opportunity, and according to the direction she gave me, I went to enquire for Mrs. —, in J —'s Court Fleet Street. The neighbourhood looked genteel, and I soon found the house. I asked for Mrs. C — she came to me dressed in a very splendid manner; I told her what I came about; she immediately desired me to walk into the parlour, which was elegantly furnished; and after asking me several questions, with my answer to which she seemed very well pleased, a servant soon brought in a bowl of warm liquor, which she called negus, consisting of wine, water, orange, &c. which she said was for a friend or two she expected presently; but as I was warm with walking, she would have me drink some of it, telling me it was a pleasant innocent liquor, and she always used her waiting maids as she did herself. I thought this very kind and condescending, and

being warm and thirsty, and she encouraging me, I took a pretty free draught of it, and thought it very pleasant, as it really was. She made me sit down by her, saying pride was not her talent, and that she should always indulge me in the like manner, if I behaved well, when she had not company, and then slightly asked what I could do, and the wages I required, With my answers she seemed well satisfied, and granted the wages I asked, without any offer of abatement.

And then I rose up, in order to take my leave telling her, I would, any day she pleased of the ensuing week, bring my clothes, and wait upon her.

She said that her own maid being gone away she was in the utmost want of another, and would take it kindly, if I would stay with her till next day, because she was to have some ladies to pass the evening with her. I said this would be pretty inconvenient to me; but as she was so situated, I would oblige her. after I had been with my aunt, and acquainted her with it. To this she replied, that there was no manner of occasion for that, because she would send the cook for what I wanted, who could at the same time tell my aunt how matters stood.

I thought this looked a little odd, but she did it with so much civility, and seemed so pleased with her new maid, that I scarcely knew how to withstand her, but the apprehension I had of my aunt's anger, for not asking her advice, in what so nearly concerned me made me insist upon going, though I could perceive displea-

sure in her countenance when she saw me resolved.

She then plied me very close with the liquor, which she again said was innocent and weak; but I believe it was far otherwise; for my head began to turn round, and my stomach felt a little disordered. I entreated the favor of her to permit me to go on a firm promise of returning immediately; but then my mistress began to raise her voice a little, assuring me I should on no account stir out of her house. She left the room in a kind of a pet; but said she would send the cook to take my directions to my aunt; and I heard her take the key out of the outward door.

This alarmed me very much; and in the instant of my surprize, a young gentlewoman entered the parlor, dressed in white satin, and every way genteel, she sat down in a chair next me, looked earnestly at me awhile, and seemed going to speak several times, but did not. At length she rose from her chair, bolted the parlor door, and breaking into a flood of tears, expressed herself as follows:

"Dear young woman, I cannot tell you the pain I feel on your account; and from an inclination to serve you, I run a hazzard of involving myself in greater misery than I have yet experienced, if that can be. But my heart is yet too honest to draw others, as I am desired to do, into a snare which I have fallen myself. You are in as notorious a brothel as any in London, and if you escape not in a few hours, you are inevitably undone. I was once as innocent as you seem to be. No apprehension you can be

under for your virtue, but I feel as much; my reputation was unspotted, and my dear, unverses in ill, when I first entered these guilty doors whither I was sent of an errand, much like what I understand has brought you hither; *I* was by force detained the whole night as you are designed to be; was robbed of my virtue; and knowing *I* should hardly be forgiven by my friends for staying out without their knowledge, and in the morning being at a loss, all in confusion as *I* was, what to do, before *I* could resolve on any thing, *I* was obliged to repeat my guilt, and hardly time afforded me to reflect upon its fatal consequences. My liberty *I* entreated to no purpose, and my grief served for the cruel sport of all around me; in short *I* have been so long confined, that *I* am ashamed to appear among my friends and acquaintance.— In this dreadful situation *I* have been perplexed with the hateful importunities of different men every day; and though *I* long resisted to my utmost, yet downright force never failed to overcome, thus in a shameful round of guilt and horror, have *I* lingered out ten months; subject to more miseries than tongue can express.

The same sad lot is intended you, nor will it be easy to shun it; however as *I* cannot well be more miserable than *I* am, *I* will assist you what *I* can; and not, as the wretched procuress hopes contribute to make you as unhappy as myself."

You may guess at the terror that seized my heart on this sad story, and my own danger. *I* trembled in every joint, nor was *I* able to speak for some time; at last in the best manner *I* could

I thanked my unhappy new friend, and begged she would kindly give me the assistance she offered; which she did, for the first gentleman that came to the door, she stepped herself up for the key to let him in, which the wretched procuress gave her; and I took that opportunity, as she directed, to run out of the house, and that in so much hurry and confusion, as to leave my hood, fan, and gloves behind me.

I told my aunt every circumstance of my danger and escape, and received a severe reprimand for my following so inconsiderately. in so wicked a town as this, the direction of an entire stranger.

I am sure sister, you rejoice with me for my deliverance; and this accident may serve to teach us to be upon our guard for the future, as well against the viler part of our own sex, as that of the other.

I am, dear Polly

Your truly affectionate Sister:

N. B. *This shocking story is taken from the mouth of the young woman herself, who so narrowly escaped the snare of the vile procuress, and is fact in every circumstance.*

LETTER XXII.

From a Maid Servant in Town; acquainting her Parents in the Country with a proposal of Marriage, and asking their consent.

Honoured Father and Mother,

I Think it my duty to acquaint you that I am addressed to for change of condition, by one

Mr. John Brittle, who is a glazier, and lives in the neighborhood by us. He is a young man of a sober character, and has been set up about two years: has good business for his time, and is well beloved, and spoken well of by every one. My friends here think well of it, particularly my master and mistress, and he says, he doubts not by Gods blessing on his industry, to maintain a family very prettily: and I have fairly told him how little he has to expect with me. But I would not conclude on any thing however, till I had acquainted you with his proposals, and asked your blessings and consents: for I am, and ever will be,

Your dutiful Daughter,

Anne Loveglafe

LETTER XXIII.

From the Parents, in Answer to the preceding.

Dear Nanny,

WE have received your dutiful letter. We can only pray to God to bless and direct you in all your engagements. Our distance from you must make us leave every thing to your discretion; as you are so well satisfied in Mr. Brittle's character, as well as all friends, and your master and mistress, we give our blessings and consents with all our hearts: We are only sorry we can do no more for you: But let us know when it is done, and we will do some little matter

as far as we are able, towards housekeeping. Our respects to Mr. Brittle. Every Body joins with us in our wishes for your happiness, and God bless you, is all that can be said by,

Your truly loving Father and Mother.

LETTER XXIV.

*From the same, acquainting her Parents with
her Marriage.*

Honoured Father and Mother.

I Write to acquaint you, that last Thursday I was married to Mr. Brittle, and am to go home to him in a fortnight, My master and mistress have been very kind, and have made me a present towards house keeping, of three guineas. I had saved twenty pounds in service, and that is all I told him the naked truth of Every thing and indeed, did not intend to marry so soon, but when I had your letter, and shewed it him, he would not let me rest till it was done. Pray do not straiten yourselves out of love to me. He joins with me in saying so, and bids me present his duty to you, and tell you, that he fears not to maintain me very well. I have no reason to doubt of being very happy. And your prayers for a blessing on both our industry, will, I hope be a means to make us more so. We are, and shall be, with respects to all friends.

Your most dutiful Son and Daughter.

LETTER XXV:

From a Country Chapman beginning Trade, to a City Dealer, offering his Correspondence.

Sir,

THE time of my apprenticeship with Mr Walker of this town being expired, I am just going to begin for myself in Preston, having taken a shop there for that purpose. And as I know the satisfaction you always gave to my master in your dealings, I make an offer to you of my correspondence, in expectations that you will use me as well as you have done him, in whatever I may write to you for. And this I rather expect, as you cannot disoblige Mr. Walker by it, because the distance I shall be from him; and I shall endeavor to give you equal content with regard to my payments, &c. Your speedy answer whether or no you are disposed to accept of my offer, will oblige,

Your humble Servant.

LETTER XXVI.

In Answer to the foregoing.

Sir,

I Have received yours of October 20th, and very chearfully accept the favor you offer me. I will take care to serve you in the best manner I am able, and on the same footing with Mr.

Walker, not doubting you will make as punctual returns as he does; which entitles him to a more favorable usage than could otherwise be afforded. I wish you success with all my heart, and am,

Your obliged Servant:

LETTER XXVII.

A pressing and angry Letter from a City Dealer, to his Correspondent in the Country

Mr. Thompson,

I AM sorry your ill usage constrains me to write to you in the most pressing manner. Can you think it is possible to carry on business after the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made me, and how, from time to time, you have broken them; and can I depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? if you do not, what must I think of a man, who deals worse with me than he does with any body else? if you think you may trespass more upon me, than you can upon others, that is a very bad compliment to my prudence, or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be entitled to good usage. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed for ever? trade is so dependent a thing, you know, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me

for those very goods I send you ? what end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty for goods, which I sell at a small profit, and have not six months credit for myself ? Indeed Sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others, and what then must be the consequence ? In short, Sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder ; and shall be very loath to take any harsh methods to procure this justice to myself, and my own creditors.—
For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful Friend and Servant.

LETTER XXVIII.

In Answer to the preceding.

Sir,

I MUST acknowledge I have not used you well, and can give no better answer to your just expostulation, than to send you the inclosed draught for fifty pounds, which you will be pleased to carry to my credit ; and to assure you of more punctual treatment for the future.—Your letter is no bad lesson to me ; I have con-
nected it often, and hope I shall improve by it. I am ready to give you my bond for the remainder, which I will keep paying every month something till all is discharged ; and what I write to you for in the interim, shall be paid

for on receipt of the goods. This, I hope, Sir, will satisfy you for the present. If I could do better, I would, but shall be straitened to do this, but I think in return for your patience, I cannot do less, to convince you that I am now at last in earnest. I beg you will continue to me the same good usage and service I have met with from you hitherto; and that you will believe me to be unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble Servant.

LETTER XXIX.

From an Insolvent Debtor, to desire the Acceptance of a Composition.

Sir,

IT is with the greatest concern I now inform you, that some losses I have lately suffered render it impossible for me to carry on business any longer. I am sorry, Sir, that your debt is so large, and the composition I am able to make so small; for I am able to pay but five shillings in the pound. I have, however, the comfort of being conscious that my intentions were always honest, and that it would have given the highest pleasure to me fully to have discharged every debt I have contracted. If, upon the inspection of my books, you will accept of such a dividend as I am able to make, my other creditors, I have reason to hope, will follow your example. They are to have a meeting next Tuesday at the Feathers in our town, and a favourable line from you, who are my principal creditor, will

have much weight with them, and lay me under the greatest obligation ; and I shall think myself bound in honor and conscience. If ever Providence should place me in a prosperous situation, to make good what you and my other creditors will lose by accepting the composition,

I am, Sir,

Your most unhappy, and most humble Servant.

LETTER XXX.

The Answer.

Sir,

I AM really concerned for your unhappy situation, and readily consent to accept of the composition you mention. I have appointed Mr Lawson, a very honest attorney of your town to act for me in your affairs, and have wrote to him accordingly. I always thought you a very honest man, and have desired him to exert himself in your behalf with your other creditors, in order to bring them to amicable terms. He is also to examine your books, and to make such enquiries as he shall judge necessary, and if every thing turns out as I wish, I shall readily give you fresh credit. I heartily wish you better days and am,

Your real Friend,

WILLIAM LEWIS.

*From a Gentleman in London; to his Friend in the
Country, on the New Year.*

Dear Sir,

IT is now the season to wish you a good end of one year, and a happy beginning of another, but both these you know how to make yourself, by only continuing such a life as you have been accustomed to lead. As for good works they are things I dare not name, either to those that do them or to those that do them not; the first are too modest, and the latter too selfish, to bear the mention of what are become either too old fashioned, or too private, to constitute any part of the vanity or reputation of the present age. However, it were to be wished people would now and then look upon our good works, as they do upon old wardrobes, merely in case any of them should by chance come into fashion again, as ancient fardingales revive in modern hoop'd petticoats, which may be properly compared to charities, as they cover a multitude of sins.

They tell me at Coleshell certain antiquated charities and obsolete devotions are yet subsisting that a thing called Christian Cheerfulness (not incomparable with christmas-pies and plumb broth) whereof frequent is the mention in old sermons and almanacks, is really kept alive and in practice; that feeding the hungry, and giving alms to the poor, do yet make a good part of

house-keeping, in a latitude not more remote from London than fourscore miles; and lastly that prayers and roast beef actually made some people as happy as a whore and a bottle. But here in town I assure you, men, women, and children have done with these things. Charity not only begins but ends at home. Instead of the four cardinal virtues, now reign four courtly ones; we have cunning for prudence, rapine for justice, time serving for fortitude, and luxury for temperance. Whatever you may fancy, where you live in the state of ignorance, and see nothing but quiet religion, and good humor the case is just as I tell you, where people understand the world, and know how to live with credit and glory.

I wish that heaven would open the eyes of men and make them sensible which of these is right; whether upon a due conviction, we are to quit faction and gaming, and high feeding, and all manner of luxury, and take to your country way, or you to leave prayers and alms giving, and reading and exercise, and come into our measures. I wish (I say) that this matter was as clear to all men, as it is to,

Your affectionate, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

From a Young Tradesman to a Lady he had seen in Public.

Madam,

PERHAPS you will not be surprized to receive a letter from a person who is unknown

to you, when you reflect how likely so charming a face may be to create impertinence, and I persuade myself, that when you remember where you sit last night at the Play House, you will not need to be told this comes from the person who was just before you.

In the first place, Madam, I ask pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing this letter; but after this, I beg leave to tell you, that my thoughts are honorable, and to inform you who I am, I shall not pretend to be any better. I keep a shop, madam, in Henrietta Street, and though but two years in trade, I have tolerable custom: I do not doubt but it will increase, and I shall be able to do something for a family. If your inclinations are not engaged, I should be very proud of the honor of waiting on you, and in the mean time, if you please to desire any friend to ask my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not prejudice you against,

Madam,

Your most humble Servant.

LETTER XXXIII.

From a Relation of the Lady, in Answer to the last.

THERE has come into my hands a letter which you wrote to Miss Maria Stebbing; she is a relation of mine, and is a very good

girl; and I dare say you will not think the worse of her for consulting her friends in such an affair as that you wrote about. Besides a woman could not well answer such a letter herself, unless it was with a full refusal, and that she would have been wrong to have done until she knew something of the person that wrote it; as wrong to have encouraged him.

You seem very sincere and open in your designs; and as you give permission to enquire about you among your neighbors, I being her nearest friend did that for her. I have heard very good accounts of you; and from all that I see, you may be very suitable for one another. She has some fortune; and I shall tell you further, that she took notice of you at the play, and does not seem at all disinclined to think favorably of you.

I am with respect,

Sir,

Your Friend and humble Servant

LETTER XXXIV.

An Offer of Assistance to a Friend, who had received great Losses by a Person's Failure.

Dear Sir,

I AM exceedingly concerned at the great loss you have lately sustained by the failure of Mr. Potts, I hope you behave under it like the man of prudence you have always shewn yourself, and as one who knows how liable

men are to misfortunes. As *I* am really desirous of giving you consolation, *I* cheerfully offer my service to answer any present demand, and you are at liberty to draw upon me to the amount of 200*l*. which you may have the use of for a twelvemonth or more, if your affairs require it,

— In accepting of which you will give great pleasure to

Your sincere Friend.

LETTER XXXV.

The Friends Answer, on accepting the generous Offer.

My Dear Friend,

I AM at a loss to find words to express the grateful sense I have of this instance of true generous friendship. My loss indeed is heavy; but I find that so kind a friend is capable of making it light. I thankfully accept of a part of your generous offer, and am ready to give you my bond for 100*l*. payable in a year. This sum is all I shall have occasion for; and if *I* did not know *I* could then return it, *I* would not accept of your favor. *I* am dear Sir,

*Your most faithful,
and obliged humble Servant,*

LETTER XXXVI.

The same Offer being also made to another Friend who had no occasion for the Money, he returned the following Answer.

Sir,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for your generous offer. I have indeed been much affected at the unexpected failure of a man, whom I thought in very happy circumstances; but at present have no occasion for your friendly assistance. If I should, I know no one in the world to whom I should sooner choose to be obliged. I am Sir, with the warmest gratitude.

*Your most obliged
and most humble Servant:*

LETTER XXXVII.

*From a young Woman just gone to Service, to her
Mother at Home,*

Dear Mother,

TIS a fortnight this very day that I have been at Mr. Johnson's; and, I thank God I begin to find myself a little easier than I have been; but indeed I have suffered a great deal, since I parted from you and all the rest of my friends. At our first coming hither, I thought every thing looked so strange about me; and when John got upon his horse, and rode out of

E

the yard, methought every thing looked stranger and stranger · so I got up to the window and looked after him, 'till he turned into the London road, (for you know we live a quarter of a mile on the farther side of it) and then I sat down and cried; and that always gave me some relief. Many a time have I cried since: but I do my best to dry up my tears, and to appear as chearful as I can.

Dearest mother, I return you a thousand thanks for all the kind advice you were so good as to give me at parting, and I think it over, often and often; but yet methinks, it would be better if I had it in writing: that would be what I should value above all things. But I am afraid to ask for what should give you so much trouble. So with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever,

Your most dutiful Daughter.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Her Mothers Answer

My dear Child,

I am very sorry that you have suffered so much since we parted; but 'tis always so at first; and will wear away in time. I have had my share too, but I bear it now pretty well; and hope you will endeavor to follow my example in this, as you used to say you loved to do in every thing. You must consider, that we never should have parted with you, had it not been for your

good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. You will get new friends there; and I think I can assure you, that you will lose no love here: for we talk of you every evening, and every body speaks of you as fondly, or rather more fondly than they ever did. In the mean keep yourself employed as much as you can; which is the best way of wearing off any concern. Do all the business of your place; and be always ready to assist your fellow servants where you can in their business.

This will both fill up your time, and help to endear you to them; and then you will soon have as many friends about you there, as you used to have here. I don't caution you against speaking ill of any body living, for I know you never used to do it; but if you hear a bad story of any body, try to soften it all you can; and never tell it again, out rather forget it as soon as possible. I am in great hopes, that all the family are kind to you already, from the good character I have heard of them. but I should be glad to see it confirmed by your next; and the more particular you are in it the better. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will give a good share of it to your devotions: that's an exercise which gives comfort and spirits without tiring one. My prayers you have daily; I might have said hourly; and there is nothing I pray for with more earnestness, that my dearest child may do well.— You did not mention any thing of your health in your last; but I had the pleasure of hearing

you are well, by Mr. Yetes, a young man, who said he called upon you on his way from London, and that you looked as fresh as a rose and as bonny as a black-bird.—You know James's way of talking—However, I was glad you were well and desire you would not forget to mention your health yourself in your letter. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers their kind love to you; heaven bless you, my dear child, and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and more particularly to

Your affectionate Mother.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

Upon the death of a near Friend, from a relation.

Dear Madam,

THOUGH I am sensible that to a real grief nothing can be so impertinent as the ceremony of condolence, yet I think from relations and friends so strictly united as we have been, something may be allowed, because a great deal is required of them. When I judge by myself, I consider with what distaste and aversion I should look upon the ceremony of grief of those who neither knew the deceased enough nor cared enough for me to be concerned about it; yet when I consider how true a satisfaction any notice from you would be in that situation; nay when I recollect (for it assuredly would be so) that this would be one of the greatest comforts of which I was capable, I cannot deny

myself the mournful indulgence of writing to you.

I am not about to blame that sorrow which shuts you from the day-light, and from the company even of your nearest friends; the cause is worthy of it; and you owe no less to his memory, who would have paid no less to yours.— Do to his remembrance this justice; but remember when you have paid the tribute, that something is also due to yourself; or could you suppose that you might neglect that, to your children.

You have no right to impair your own health and in a constitution so tender as your's this might easily be done; nor had you, could you answer it to those who want a guide or guardian, and who can have none so interested in their good, or so able to promote it as you, if you neglect any care of yourself.

I know to reason with you would be to engage with an antagonist too powerfull on any occasion; but I also know when I press this on you as a duty, and assuredly I have a right so to do, you will be convinced and yield to the superiority of the cause, Dear cousin, we are all interested in this, and therefore you must give me leave to press the consideration upon you. Discharge your duty to the dead, but remember you owe it also to the living; and that these little ones have a claim to the care of your own health. I shall say no more, perhaps, less would have become me better; but you will excuse a fault, if it be one, which has so honest a mo-

tive. Give me leave to assure you that none is more solicitous of your welfare than,

Dear Madam,

Your most obedient and humble Servant.

LETTER XL.

To a Friend gone for the Summer into the Country.

Dear Sir,

YOU left me your commands. when you took your leave of us, to write to us once in a fortnight, and give you the news of the town; but you that make the news are gone; and what is there worth your attention among the inconsiderable people that remain here? shall I write you word the king is gone to Kensington: you know he resolved it before you went; or that the Duke is at Windsor; you are as well acquainted with that as I am. Shall I describe to you, the new equipage of the princess of Wales; the newspapers have done it already: or if I were inclined to give you the scandal of the people that are left in this desolate place, the pamphleteers have spread that also. The French Parliament had bribed Madam Pompadour on their side, but the King discovered the conspiracy, and he forbade the one his sight, and turned the other out of doors. The clergy were a match for their lay antagonists in this occasion. If only a mistress was to effect the matter, the holy panders did not scruple to do the office; and his Most Christian Majesty is at this moment probably, for it is morn-

ing tho' I am writing to you. at rest in the arms of the daughter of an Irish shoemaker O ill star'd Fanny, that did not stay for such an incident! but she was never in favor with the churchmen.

Mr. Sullen is more than ever out of humor with his wife; but he cannot be more eager to get rid of her, than her lover is to get her. The Lady will not be long without a protector. It is expected it will come to this; but when, no mortal can tell. She is agreeable, tho' she is a baggage; and the husband is in the condition of Prior's thief, who often took leave, but was loth to depart.

I do not know that there is any thing else here to tell you of. As to your friends, you have most of them with you, and the rest are not here. What remain in Grosvenor-Street are well; but they had rather be well in any other part of the earth. I am apt to believe that we are as much in love with green trees as you are tired of them. With all your boast of ease and solitude, and retirement, and contemplation, I fancy you would be glad to change the scene for bustle and business, if there were any people here to make it. But you seem all of you to have betrayed yourselves, and one another; to have got away from town in pursuit of what you do not find in the country, now you are more together in it. Dear Sir, I have written as you will perceive, rather because it was proper I should write, than that I had any thing to say. But there is a merit in obedience; and when it

is your commands, there will always be a pleasure also in it, to

*Your most obedient and
most humble Servant*

LETTER XLI. :

From a Friend in the Country, to an Acquaintance in Town in Answer.

My dear Sir,

I Do not know that when I engaged you to write to me twice a month. I promised to answer you as often; at least I imagine neither you expected to have any thing to hear, nor I to have any thing to write from the Country, more than we are all well, and at your service, and we thank you, and pray tell us the news. But I find the turns of business have changed hands; and this is the place of bustle, while you are quiet.

The contests between the French king and his parliament, are nothing to those of our mayor, and his court of aldermen. The representative of the town interest has been taking the necessary and usual methods to prepare for the ensuing election; but whether the mayor has lost his popularity, whether the aldermen had their minds poisoned by some bad reports, or whether they have reasons as weighty as those of Mr. Mayor's, I cannot tell, they are determined to oppose the re-election of this worthy gentleman. They say they do not know who will offer in his place, but this I am afraid is apocryphal.

The game association have also created as much confusion as the election: and they are in this particular circumstance united with it. The representative has been one of the star and garter club; and he has, I think, forfeited his seat at Westminster, to preserve the hares and partridges about his seat in the country. Whether he will think himself a gainer by this exchange, his banker will, I suppose inform us.

You will say peace and quietness are not what we retire to in the country; but to people used to contests, between parties and their heads, between power and power, and in which the fate of kingdom is involved, this bustle about it is amusing. My dear Sir, farewell. Continue to write to me as I requested you, for when you have least to say, you still have something.

Yours most truly

LETTER XLII.

The Daughter to her Mother.

Dear Mother,

THOUGH we begin to have such cold weather I am got up into my chamber to write to you. God be thanked I am grown quite easy, which is owing to my following your good advice, and the kindness that is already shewn me in the family. Betty and I are bedfellows; and she, and Robin, and Thomas, are all so kind to me, that I can scarce say which is the kindest. My master is sixty-five years of age next April;

but by his look you would hardly take him to be fifty. He has always an easy, smiling, smiling look; and is very good to all his servants. When he has happened to pass by me as I have been dusting out the chambers, or in the passage, he generally says something to encourage me, and that makes one's work go on more pleasantly. My mistress is thin as my master is plump; not much short of him in age, and more apt to be a little peevish. Indeed that may easily be; for I have never yet heard my master say a single word to any of us, but what was kind and encouraging. My master, they say, is vastly rich for he is a prudent man, and laid up a great deal of money while he was in business, with which he purchased this estate here, and another in Sussex, some time before he left off; and they have, I find, a very good house in London, thought I don't at all desire to go there.

As to my fellow servants, 'tis thought Betty (who is very good natured and as merry as the day is long) is to be married to the jovial landlord over the way; and to say the truth, I am apt to believe they are actually promised to one another. our coachman, Thomas, seems to be a truly good worthy man; You may see by his eyes, that it does his heart good whenever he can do a kind thing for any of his neighbours. He was born in the parish, and his father has a good farm of his own in it and rents another. — Robin the footman is good natured too; he is always merry, and loves to laugh, as much as he loves to eat; and I am sure he has a good stomach. But I need not talk of that, for now

mine is come again, I eat almost as hearty as he does. With such fellow servants, and such a matter, I think it will be my own fault, if I am not easy. Well in health I assure you I am, and begin to be pretty well in spirits, only my heart will heave a little still every time I look towards the road that goes to your house. Heaven bless you all there! and make a deserving daughter of so good a mother.

LETTER XLIII.

The Mother's Answer and Advice.

Dear Child,

THE next piece of advice that I give you is, to think often how much a life of virtue is to be preferred to a life of pleasure, and how much better, and more lasting a good name is than beauty."

If we called things by their right names, there is nothing that deserves the name of pleasure so truly as virtue: but one must talk as people are used to talk, and I think, by a life of pleasure, they generally mean a life of gayety.

Now our gayeties, God knows, are at best very trifling; always unsatisfactory; often attended with difficulties in the procuring them, and fatigue in their very enjoyment; and too often followed by regret and self condemnation. — What they call a life of pleasure among the great, must be a very laborious life; they spend the greatest part of their nights in balls and as-

semlies; and sling away the greatest part of their days in sleep. Their life is too much opposed to nature, to be capable of happiness; 'tis all a hurry of visits, twenty or thirty perhaps in a day, to persons for whom there are not above two or three that they have any real affection or esteem for (supposing them capable of either;) a perpetual seeking after what they call diversions; an insipidity and want of taste when they are engaged in them, and a certain languishing and restlessness when they are without them. This is not living but a constant endeavor to cheat themselves out of the little time they have to live; for they generally inherit a bad constitution, make it worse by their absurd and unnatural way of life, and deliver a still weaker and weaker thread down to their children. I don't know any one thing more ridiculous than the seeing their wrinkled fallow faces, all set out with diamonds. Poor mistaken gentlewoman! they should endeavor to avoid people's eyes as much as possible, and not to attract them for they are really a quite deplorable sight, and their very faces are a standing lesson against the strange lives that people lead.

People in lower life, 'tis true do not act so ridiculously as those in higher; but even among them too there's a vast difference between the people that live well, and the people that live ill: the former are more healthy, in better spirits, fitter for business, and more attentive to it; the latter are more negligent, more uneasy, more contemptible, and more diseased.

In truth, either in high or low life, virtue is

only another name for happiness. and debauchery is the high road to misery ; and this, to me, appears just as true and evident, as that moderation is always good for us, and excesses always hurtful.

But is it not a charming thing to have youth and beauty, to be followed and admired ? to have presents offered from all sides to one ? to be invited to all diversions, and to be distinguished by the men from all the rest of the company ? Yes, my dear child, all this would be charming, if we had nothing to do but dance, and receive presents, as if this distinction of us was to last always. But the mischief of it is, that these things cannot be enjoyed without encreasing your vanity every time you enjoy them. and swelling up a passion in you, that soon must be baulked or disappointed. How long is this beauty to last ? there are but few fair faces than can keep it together side of five and twenty; and how would you bear it ; after having been used to be thus distinguished and admired for some time, to sink out of the notice of people, and be neglected, and perhaps affronted by the very persons who used to pay the greatest adoration to you ?

Do you remember the gentleman that was with us last autumn, and his presenting you with that pretty flower one day, on his coming out of the garden ? I dont know whether you understood him or not, but I cou'd read it in his looks, that he meant it for a lesson to you. 'Tis true the flower was quite a pretty one ; but though you put it in water, you know it faded, and grew

disagreeable in four or five days; and had it not been cropp'd; but suffered to grow in the garden, it would have done the same in nine or ten. Now a year is to a beauty, what a day was to the flower; and who would value themselves much on the possession of a thing, which they are sure to lose in so short a time.

Nine or ten years is what one may call the natural term of life for beauty in a young woman but by accidents or misbehavior, it may die long before its time. The greater part of what people call beauty in your face, for instance, is owing to that air of innocence and modesty that is in it, if you once should suffer yourself to be ruined by any base man, all that would soon vanish, and assurance and ugliness would come in the room of it.

And if other consequence should follow, (for other bad ones there are, of more sorts than one) you would lose your bloom too, and then all is gone. But keep your reputation, as you have hitherto kept it, and that will be a beauty which will last to the end of your days; for it will be the more confirmed and brightened by time. That will secure you esteem, when all the present form of your face is vanished away; and will be always mellowing in greater and greater charms. These my sentiments you'll take as blessings, and remember they come from the heart of a tender and affectionate mother.

E. T.

LETTER XLIV.

*From an Apprentice who married without Consent
of his Relations, to his Uncle.*

Honoured Uncle,

YOUR great kindness and affection, which I have so often experienced, by the favor of which I have hardly been suffered to feel the loss of my father and mother, emboldens me to write to you upon an occasion which gives me the greatest trouble of mind, and which I have too long kept a secret; in that, adding to the fault I at first committed.

Sir, not to presume to keep you longer in suspense, I most humbly confess to you that I am married. The person I have chosen is not of family, nor possessed of any fortune; wherefore I have hitherto kept it a secret, fearing your displeasure, but at present I cannot keep it so any longer; and although your displeasure, which I greatly fear, may make me repent of what I have done, I have no other cause to be sorry.

Sir, it is now more than a year, that I have been married, in which time having had sufficient opportunities of seeing the conduct and temper of my wife, and that sometimes under difficult and not agreeable circumstances, I have reason to say that she is one of the best and worthiest women I ever knew. I wish, Sir, I may find it as easy to reconcile you to this match, as

as I find it to make myself content with the advantages of fortune, which I might have obtained with another, and twice with such a one would probably have spent.

The occasion Sir, of my writing to you at this time, is the same which rendered it necessary for me to confess my marriage to you, which otherwise I should have feared to do; and this, Sir, I hope you will consider favorably. The allowance you are pleased to make me for my pocket together with the industry of my wife, has very well supported us hitherto; for loving only her company, I have no other expence but the care of her. But Sir, she is now near her lying in, and the necessary charge of such a time is more than I have had opportunities to provide.

I am not ignorant Sir, that too many having those opportunities to do ill, perhaps unperceived, that I have, would have kept this secret still at the expence of their honesty; but there is no hazard I shall run preferable to this; not even the incurring your displeasure, which should it happen, would break my heart. — I have presumed, Sir, to trouble you with a long letter, and I am afraid the least agreeable to you in its contents of any I have written — You will see, Sir, that although there is scarce any thing I would not do rather than venture to displease you, yet I have run that hazard preferably to the being dishonest. To reconcile you to my marriage, there is only one way, which is that you will be pleased to see my wife; but as she is not in a condition to travel at this time, I

presume to beg of you some little assistance toward the expence which is coming upon me.

Sir, I dread your answer, and yet I must wish for it impatiently; I most humbly request of you not to express your displeasure which although it were wrong, is now past, and cannot be recovered, and which I am to bear the consequences of, and am willing to bear them, I dare not trespass farther upon your patience, but beg leave to subscribe myself, Honored Sir,

Your most dutiful Nephew,

LETTER XLV.

*From an Uncle to his Nephew, who had Married
imprudently
Nephew,*

I Have read your letter with the greatest concern; it is a grief to me not less than it would have been to your father, were he living, that you have done the only act of disobedience that cannot be forgiven.

I shall not refuse the trifle you ask of me, because I pity the person you have married, although I do not think you deserve that consideration. You will receive by the coach a parcel, in which are fifteen guineas. I have paid the coachman for taking charge of it; so see that you find it there; and God bless you.

I would not write cruelly to you, for I am inclined to love you tenderly; but at the same time cannot help telling you, that you must ex-

pect nothing more from me; nor must you flatter yourself that a reconciliation can ever be brought about. Here was a match provided for you, and when you were of a proper age you would have heard of it, this would have made us all happy; but if I could get those who intended so favorably to overlook the disappointment, and forgive such an insult, for they still consider it in no other light, yet it would be still impossible to receive into our families and acquaintance a mean person, for so your silence on that head, beside what you have confessed, declare your wife to be; and it is therefore impossible that you can be received upon the footing you have been among them.

You see that I am not influenced by any start of passion or resentment in what I write to you. This is the natural light in which the thing must be seen; an indiscretion. I wished and expected to have seen you, a credit to your friends by your industry and success, although in a sphere below theirs, and to have met you every where well received by them; but it is impossible.—For my own part, I am, as you very well know, under no obligation to provide for you; but your good behavior, and my own good opinion of you prevailed with me to do so much as has been done. You are now nearly out of your apprenticeship, and as a journeyman, will be in a situation to earn as much as I have been used to allow you; therefore that charge upon me is no longer necessary, nor must you expect it. I hoped to have seen you in a better station; but this is what you have

chosen for yourself, and I am afraid is what you are most fit for.

I wish you not to write to me after this, for have given you my thoughts at large in this letter; and as they are not the effects of passion, they will not be altered by any thing you can add to what you have already said, I am truly concerned for you, and am,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XLVI.

From a Friend who had undertaken to adjust a Difference, on the Part of the Aggressor.

Sir,

THERE may require many apologies from an entire stranger, who presumes to write to you on a subject, in which although it is of some consequence to you, he has no immediate concern; but if I had not heard greatly of your candor, I should not have written at all; and as that has been the occasion of my adventuring to do it, the less excuse seems necessary.

Not to detain you with ceremony, Mr. Nicholas, for whom I have a particular friendship, and who was once honored with your esteem, has been speaking in such a manner, of some unpleasing things which have lately passed between you, that I am sure, if you had heard him I am sure you would have forgotten every thing in which he may have been to blame.

I have always found, that animosities between those who have been friends, are carried on

with the greatest violence; nor is this a wonder, since we naturally regard an offence less in respect to itself, than to the relation in which the person stood with us, who was guilty of it. I believe if you will recollect without passion; (for though all cannot do this under provocations, yet I have been very imperfectly informed concerning you, if you have not that command of yourself) if you will reflect coolly, I believe you will find, that where resentments, on ever so just occasions, have been carried to the greatest lengths, the consequences have been such as neither of the persons would have wished, when out of the influence of passion; and I cannot doubt but you will rather do yourself justice by receiving an honorable submission, than pursue a resentment, even upon a justifiable foundation, to the last extremity.

You will pardon me, Sir, that my good will to the person who has given you offence has carried me thus far, he is sensible that he is to blame and he is willing to acknowledge it. It was my opinion that a third person could better speak on such an occasion than himself: and he has joined with me in it. Tho' I have not the honor to be known to you, I flatter myself my name is. If you permit me to wait on you on this occasion, I shall be happy to be the instrument of an honorable satisfaction; and (for I cannot doubt but that will be the consequence) of a perfect reconciliation between two persons, who notwithstanding this unlucky misunderstanding, I do believe to be the most worthy in the world of each other's friendship.

I am with the greatest respect. Sir. Yours &c.

LETTER XLVII.

Upon receiving the offer of a Submission, in consequence of an Offence; in Answer.

Sir,

MR. Nicholas could take no step in this matter so agreeable to me as the applying to you; since whatever is agreed by your advice, cannot but be to both our honors. I am also happy, that the effect of so disagreeable an incident is, that I shall have the honor to see a person to whom I always thought it a misfortune that I was not personally known.

It gives me a great pleasure that this matter will be accomodated with a man with whom I have had so long a friendship, and for whom I entertain so true an esteem; nor shall I think him less the man of honor for confessing a mistake, than if he had, knowing it to be wrong, defended it with obstinacy. I impatiently expect the honor of your visit.

And am with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

LETTER XLVIII.

To a Friend, whose Indiscretion had engaged him in a Dispute likely to end in Law.

Dear Charles,

I Take the liberty of writing to you, though I know beforehand my letter must be disagree-

able; but it is to serve, and not humor, you in a thing where you are wrong. You know I was present when there happened to pass some words between you and Mr. Nicholas, and I hear since that he has been consulting an attorney, to know if what you said was actionable. You never have been in law, else you would be in more care than you seem about it. Take it for granted, trying a cause is like boxing out a dispute; whichever gets the better, both are heartily beaten.

As to the words you said, they certainly reflect upon his character, and the more you may depend upon it he will have his remedy: I grant you it was all true that you spoke; but that is the reason why he feels so much. People are always the nicest about their characters who have no characters at all: and one thing I must tell you, that very likely you do not know already, which is, that a thing is not less scandal in law because it is true.

I say all this to you first, dear Charles, that you may take my advice about your conduct. I would have you make it up by any means in the world before it goes farther. Ask his pardon at the Club where you spoke it, own you was in liquor, or you not have said it; and if this will not do, offer him ten pounds to drop it; for he is a dirty fellow, and will take it. It is more perhaps, than he would get by a verdict, but then it would cost an hundred.

I know, dear Charles, you are of a passionate temper, and you will not be ready to give up a point, especially when you are in the right;

but it is better to do that, than be plagued with a law suit that will take up all your time, and cost you heaven knows what into the bargain. Do, be advised and get the better of yourself, though you are in the right; for it is much better to do so, than to be ruined by one's obstinacy. I beg you will do as I desire you, for your family's sake, for if you once get into the lawyer's hands, you know not what will be the end of it.

*I am,
Dear Charles,
Your Friend and Servant.*

LETTER XLIX.

From a Person engaged in a dispute with a bad Man to a Friend whom he desires to interfere.

My dear Friend,

I Received your letter, and am convinced you are in the right. It is the most unfortunate thing in the world to have to do with bad people in any respect, and nothing is worse than to quarrel with them. I am sure all I said was true, and can bring proof it: but notwithstanding that, I am sensible of the prudence of your advice, and am resolved to follow it. I am willing to do any thing that is necessary to make up the matter, and will give more money than you mention, if that be necessary, but I do not know how to speak to the fellow myself. As you have been so kind in your advice, I beg you

will talk to him. Whatever you settle with him I will agree to; and shall always remember how much I am obliged to your friendship.

*I am, Dear Sir,
Your most humble Servant.*

LETTER L.

From a Son to a Father. asking his advice about offering himself a Candidate for the Place in the Gift of a Number.

Honoured Sir,

MY neighbor, Mr. Wilkins, is dead since I wrote to you last; and as he was possessed of a post under the Governors of the London Hospital, and many of the most considerable live in this ward, I have been advised by my friends to offer myself as a candidate to succeed him. I have reason to think I am respected in the place, and am sure I have some that will assist me; but I am quite unexperienced in the thing, and know not how to go about it. I would not attempt any thing that should make my name public in this manner without your approbation and for that reason, as well as my inexperience in such matters, I make it the first thing to write you word of it.

I beg, Sir, you will first tell me whether you approve of my attempting it, and then, if You do so, that You would give me your advice in what manner I am to do it; but in this I beg you would not lose any time; because if any appli-

eration be made, it must be immediately, as others will be ready to make it; and often a first request carries it, though made by a stranger.— I beg you will be pleased to answer me this morning.

*I am, honoured Sir,
Your obedient Son.*

LETTER LI:

From a Father to a Son, asking his Advice about putting up for a place. In answer to the former.

Dear Son,

I Think you cannot do better then to follow the advice of your friends on this occasion. I heartily recommend it to you to put up, and will take all the pains possible among my friends to speak to those they know. It is always right to try, where it is no discredit to lose; and as to the making your name public, it is nothing but advantage. You did not intend to practise your business in private, and the more people know of you, the better; besides, it is some credit to obtain. Use your own and your friends interest thoroughly, and beg of them all to be earnest in their commendation. Consider, if you do not succeed in this, still it is being made known to many families, and that in the most favorable manner, and they may employ you afterwards.

My dear Harry, you will find every thing of this kind depends upon the general good behavior of the person; therefore I should recommend it to all young people to try often for such employments. You do not need any cautions or guards upon your conduct; but they will do you no harm. I do not suppose you will succeed, for few, I believe, ever have on the first attempt but you will make yourself an interest: you are young enough to see more vacancies: and if you preserve that interest you set out with, the advantage of so many votes at the next, is always recommendation to those that have stood before.

You now see my thoughts fully upon this matter, and you will find that I shall give you more than my advice; for I will do every thing that is possible to serve you. You must be industrious in your application; for this is a rule, my dear son, that in all things to be obtained from a number of votes, the most bustling man generally carries it, whether he be the most deserving or not. God send you success.

I am,

Your affectionate Father.

LETTER LIII.

To a Widow Lady in London to dissuade her from a Marriage.

Dear Cousin,

I Was accidentally in company the other day, where you was mentioned with great respect; and it was said that you were about to marry a

gain. I may be impertinent in what I have to say on this subject, because the observations may come too late; yet I think that can hardly be the case, because this is the first time I have heard of your designing it, and then but casually. I know how ready the world is to interpret the slightest acquaintance into courtships; and I think had this been any more, I should have heard of it earlier, and with more certainty; nay I will not believe but you would have written to me of it yourself.

As I will persuade myself from these reasons, that you have not gone so far in this matter, if you have made any step in it, as to have made it too late to go back, I shall with all that freedom which our acquaintance and affinity supports me in using, give you my reasons why I think you do wrong. You are very happy at present, and those who do not know when they are well commonly change for the worse. It is a maxim among the gamesters, that nobody ought to play but those who have nothing to lose; and I think it ought to hold as good with those who marry after they are thirty. When there is a bloom of youth upon the face, a man must be tempted to do a deal to purchase it; but when that is gone, I should be always afraid that the desire of winning the bet might go farther than the love of play. If that is the matter, wretched is she who is caught; for the winner will be as ready in this case, as the loser in the other, to break the tables.

But to talk in plain words, and argue the matter like people of this world, I should imagine

that any woman who had been married a dozen or years, let it have been ever so happily, would have seen enough of the condition not to be in a humor to enter upon it again when the best season of it was over. I talk very freely to you, cousin, but *I* love you and you know it; you will therefore excuse me; nay, I believe you will thank me. I advise you against marriage, but I do not know who you are a going to marry. There is one test of affection, and there is but one, and if your lovers affairs will bear that, why I shall give up half my objections. The man who has nothing may deceive you when he says he loves you, whether you have nothing, or have a fortune; for in the one case he may just like you enough for a month's living together, and, as it is all one to him where he lives, he may resolve upon bidding good bye to you afterwards: in the other, he may very reasonably be in love with your fortune, and may think no incumbrance of your person too much for the advantage. But if the lover have a fortune more than equal to your own, take it for granted he is in earnest, and give yourself no trouble but about his constancy. It would not be worth while to marry a man you was sure liked you to-day, but who it was fifty to one, might change his mind to-morrow: and as to him whom it was impossible to know whether he liked you or no, you, who will be too wise to fall into absolute green sickness love, would be distracted to venture upon

Which of these, or whether either of these descriptions belong to your present admirer, I am

entirely ignorant. You see I am a great enemy to your marrying at all, but I have told you there is a sort of a man that I think you may venture upon; she will have good luck, however that finds him.

It would be easy to be grave upon this subject but dear cousin; it is not easy to be grave without being dull; and I have not a mind you should throw away my letter without reading it. You have a great many years probably to come, and you have a right to be happy in them. You have the means in your own hands, and in the name of wisdom keep there. You have relations who will want your money, when you can make no more use of it; and why should you rob them of it in favor of a stranger? besides I have that true affection for you; that I should be unhappy to see you in difficulties; and why should you wish to make a man miserable, because he deserves better at your hands.

Consider all these things, for you have gratitude and generosity, and consider yourself, for you have prudence; you may be happy in yourself, and a blessing to others these forty years, or you may be miserable, and a burden to your relations. this is the chance, and I protest, I believe the choice is now before you, Dear cousin, farewell, I only repeat it to you, Consider.

Yours most Affectionately.

LETTER LIV.

*From a Lady to a Stranger, enquiring the Character of an upper Maid Servant,
Madam,*

I Think myself unhappy that I have not the pleasure of being known to you, as I have a request to make, on your complying with which I place a great dependance. The occasion of this letter is nothing more than the common form of enquiring the character of a servant; and I am very sensible that in the general way this signifies little; for whatever was the fault the person committed, she begs pardon when she goes away, and her lady promises her a character on a belief that she will mend.

But, Madam, I beg leave to mention to you, that I am too sensible how much injury may be done by the tattling of these creatures, much more by her wickedness, if she is bad enough to take bribes from designing persons. Madam, I have a daughter grown up to a woman's estate, who is as dear to me as a child can be to a parent; I have omitted no care in her education; and I think she wants no kind of goodness. I should be very unhappy to see such a character sacrificed to the malice of a servant; or the child (for she has some fortune) attempted by needy persons, because they command enough to engage such a person in their service.

I beg pardon for troubling you with so long a letter on such an occasion; but I entreat the favor of you to inform me whether the person

you discharged a fortnight since, Susan Clark by name, is fit for me.

*I have the honor to be,
with the greatest respect,
Madam,
Your most obedient Servant.*

LETTER LV.

From a Lady, giving the Character of an upper Maid Servant. In Answer to the foregoing.

Madam,

AFTER the letter you have written to me, I should be unpardonable to say any thing to you but the most perfect truth. I know it is a custom with ladies to be too favorable to discharged servants, but it is a bad one. I would not be too kind to them on this occasion, in any case, but in the present I shall think it a duty to speak without the least reserve

The servant who has offered herself to you, madam, has left my place about six weeks ago : the occasion of her being discharged, was some expressions that I thought did not carry a proper respect ; but they were spoken to me, and not behind my back. I will do her the justice to acknowledge, that perhaps she might have some provocation. However, if I had been sensible I was in fault myself, I would not have kept the servant afterwards. As to the circumstances you mention, I have no cause to suspect her : I believe her to be very discreet and honest. How

far what I have mentioned may plead against her, I cannot say, you are the judge of it; but I think as it is all that can be objected to a person otherwise very desirable, and is all I have to charge her with, who have had opportunities of seeing whatever faults she has, I should not as the world of servants goes, expect a better,

I am, Madam,

Your very humble Servant,

LETTER LVI.

To a Stranger asking the character of a Servant,

Sir,

A Person whose name is James Wilkins, has applied to me, on hearing there was a vacancy in my family to serve as a footman. His greatest recommendation is, that he lived a considerable time with you, and behaved himself well in your service; if this be true, it is indeed sufficient; but this, as well as his occasion of leaving you, (which he says, was to see his friends) is so common an account for people to give of themselves, that I place no value on it; till I am favored with a confirmation of it by you.

I know it is too common in gentlemen of humane dispositions, to promise a better character to servants than they have deserved, upon their promise of amending the fault, they had been guilty of; but I am afraid this is oftener kept on the first part than on the latter. Sir, I have troubled you thus far, only to acquaint you that

mine is a family, into which it would be particularly improper to take a bad man ; and having said so much, I shall perfectly depend on what you are pleased to tell me in respect of him.

*I am, Sir, your obedient;
and very humble Servant,*

LETTER LVII.

*The Answer : Containing the character of a
Servant.*

Sir,

I AM very sensible of the propriety of all you say in respect to the abuse in characters given with servants. If there was not the particular occasion which you intimate in this case, I should still, after such a letter as you have written to me, be careful to say no more or less of the man than he deserves ; since I think that candor from one gentleman to another is more necessary than partiality to servants.

The person you mention lived in my family about ten months ; a time, perhaps, not so long as he is willing to have it thought ; and the occasion of my discharging him, was some disagreements with the other servants ; this Sir, is the truth of it. As the excuses he has made to you are very common. I think if I were in your place I should not construe them particularly to his disadvantage. The time that he was with me is sufficient to judge, in some degree, of a person in his station ; and from that I think very well of him, I should not have parted with him on

my own account; nor do I know who was to blame in the dispute which occasioned my discharging him; only as the other servants had lived longer with me, was the less inclined to part with them. This, Sir, is exactly the truth, as to his behavior while with me, and as to his leaving me; and believe he will make you a very good servant, and am,

Sir, your very obedient humble Servant.

LETTER LVIII.

*To a Person who had done a bad thing by an un-
experienced Servant.*

Mr James,

I Have a great deal of good will for you, and that is the occasion of my writing this letter. You know I saw you win the money of Lady Phillips's servant; and I have seen the young man since, and can tell you, you must take care of yourself, for I fear what is doing. The man does not suspect any harm of you, but there are those that will. He told me all the matter, and I would advise you, for your own sake, at least, to give him the money again, if you expect to stay in your place, or get a character.

The money that he paid you, he told you was his lady's and that's the truth. He is afraid to be called to an account, and has wrote to his father to come and speak to his lady about it. You may be sure this will come to your masters ears, and if he does not turn you away, it is well

if you are not taken up for winning the money in an unlawful manner. As I hear the story it is altogether against you. I have nothing to do in it, only as I wish you well, I tell you what you ought to do.

*I am, Sir,
Your humble Servant.*

LETTER LIX.

From a Person who had done a bad thing sensible of it and desires to make amends. In consequence of the former.

Mr. William,

I AM very sensible now how bad a thing I did in insisting upon your paying the money which belonged to your lady, when I won so much of you at cards. If you will come to our house, I am desirous to make it up with you, and will give you any satisfaction you please to require. As to the money won of me, I let you get it on purpose to make you play more; and all that I have won of you, I won fairly: but, however, as you cannot play the game at all, it was not an even match, and I shall willingly return it. Whereas, I hear you have sent for your father out of the country, to come up and speak to your mistress about it; I desire you will not let him say any thing concerning it: as I shall make you satisfaction, your lady will not know any thing that has happened, and it would only hurt my character to have it talked of,

I am sure it will make your father easy to see all is well on your side, and I dare say it will be example enough to you as it is; and as for my part, I shall never do such a foolish thing again. So all things being made up, I desire of you as the greatest favor that nothing may be said about it, and am,

Your humble Servant.

LETTER LX.

From a respectful Lover to his Mistress.

Dear Madam,

I Have long struggled with the most honorable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man, and have often try'd to reveal it personally; as often in this way; but never till now could prevail over my fears and doubts. But cannot longer struggle with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more when I have endeavored to reveal it. I never entertain the hope to see you without rapture; but when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated as I ought, I am utterly confounded: What can this be owing to, but a diffidence in myself, and an exalted opinion of your worthiness? And is not this one strong token of ardent love? Yet if it be, how various is the tormenting passion of its operations? Since some it inspires with courage, whilst others it deprives of all necessary confidence. I can only assure You madam, that the heart of man never

conceived a stronger or sincerer passion than mine for you. It my reverence for you is my crime, I am sure it has been my sufficient punishment. I need not say my designs and motives are honorable : who dare approach so much virtuous excellence, with a supposition that such an assurance is necessary ? What my fortune is, is well known ; and I am ready to stand the test of the strictest enquiry. Condescend madam, to embolden my respectful passion, with one favorable line ; that if what I here profess, and hope further to have an opportunity to assure you of be found to be unquestionable truth, then my humble address will not quite be unacceptable to you ; and thus you will for ever oblige dear Madam,

*Your affectionate admirer,
and devoted Servant.*

LETTER LXI.

The Answer.

Sir,

IF modesty be the greatest glory of our sex surely it cannot be blame worthy in yours. For my own part, I must think it the most amiable quality either man or woman can possess. Nor can there be, in my opinion, a true respect where there is not a diffidence of one's own merit, and an high opinion of the persons we esteem.

To say more on this occasion, would little be-

H

come me: to say less, would look as if I knew not how to pay that regard to modest merit, which modest merit only deserves:

You, Sir, best know your own heart; and if you are sincere and generous, will receive as you ought this frankness from

Your humble Servant,

LETTER LXII:

A Gentleman to a Lady, professing an aversion to the tedious Formality in Courtship.

Dear Madam,

I Remember that one of the ancients, in describing a youth in love says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute, and whenever, in your company, I behave like a fool, forget not that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare thus much, I must presume to say, that the favorable reception of this, will, I am certain make me more worthy of your notice; but your disdain would be what I believe myself incapable ever to surmount.

To try by idle fallacies; and airy compliments to prevail on your judgement, is a folly for any man to attempt who knows you. No, madam, your good sense and endowments have raised you far above the necessity of practising the mean artifices which prevail upon the less deserving of your sex; you are not to be so lightly deceived,

and if you were, give me leave to say, I should not think you deserving of the trouble that would attend such an attempt,

This, I must own, is no fashionable letter from one who, I am sure loves up to the greatest hero of romance, but as I would hope that the happiness I sue for should be lasting, is certainly most eligible to take no step to procure it but what will bear reflection; for I should be happy to see you mine, when we have both outlived the taste for every thing that has not virtue and reason to support it. I am, madam, notwithstanding this unpolished address,

*Your most respectful Admirer
and obedient humble Servant.*

LETTER LXIII:

The Lady's Answer, encouraging a farther declaration.

Sir,

I Am very little in love with the fashionable methods of courtship; sincerity with me is preferable to compliments; yet I see no reason why common decency should be discarded. There is something so odd in your stile that when I know whether you are in jest or earnest, I shall be less at a loss to answer you. Mean time, as there is abundant room for rising rather than sinking, in your complaisance, you may possibly have chosen wisely to begin first at the lowest end. If this be the case, I know not what suc-

ceeding addressee may produce, but I tell you fairly, that your present make no great impression, yet perhaps as much as you intended, on

Your humble Servant.

LETTER LXIV.

The Gentleman's Reply, more openly declaring his Passion.

Dearest Madam,

NOW I have the hope of being not more misapprehended for my acknowledged affection. I declare to you, and with all the sincerity of a man of honor, that I have long had most sincere passion for you; but I have seen gentlemen led such dances, when they have given up their affections to the lovely tyrants of their hearts, and could not help themselves, that I had no courage to begin an address in the usual forms, even to you, of whose good sense and generosity I had nevertheless a great opinion. You have favoured me with a few lines, which I most humbly thank you for. And I do assure you, madam, if you will be pleased to encourage my humble suit, you shall have so just an account of my circumstances and pretensions, as I hope will entitle me to your favor in the honorable light in which I profess myself, dear madam.

*Your most obliged,
and Faithful Admirer.*

P. S. Be so good as to favor me with one line more to encourage my personal attendance, if not disagreeable.

LETTER LXV.

The Lady's Answer to his Reply, putting the matter on a sudden issue.

Sir,

AS we are both so well inclined to avoid unnecessary trouble, as well as unnecessary compliments, I think proper to acquaint you, that Mr. Richardson of Winchester, has the management of all my affairs; and is a man of such probity and honor, that I do nothing in any matters without him. I have no dislike to your person; and if you approve of What Mr. Richardson can acquaint you with, in relation to me, and I approve of his report in your favor, I shall be far from shewing any gentleman, that I have either an insolent or a sordid spirit, especially to such as do me the honor of their good opinion. I am,

Sir, Your humble Servant:

LETTER LXVI.

A facetious young lady to her aunt, ridiculing her serious Lover.

Dear Aunt,

I Am much obliged to you for the kindness you intended me, in recommending Mr. Slyboots to me for a husband; but I must be so free as to tell you, he is a man no way suited to my incli-

nation. I despise, 'tis true, the idle rants of romance; but am inclined to think there may be an extreme on the other side of the question.

The first time the honest man came to see me in the way you were pleased to put into his head was one Sunday after sermon time. He began with telling me what I found at my finger ends, that it was very cold, and politely blow'd upon his. I immediately perceived, that his passion for me could not keep him warm; and in complaisance to your recommendation conducted him to the fire-side. After he had pretty well rubbed heat into his hands, he stood up with his back to the fire, and with his hand behind him, held up his coat, that he might warm all over; and looking about him, asked, with the tranquillity of a man a twelve month married, and just come off a journey, how all friends did in the country? I said, I hoped very well; but would be glad to warm my fingers, Cry mercy madam. And then he shuffled a little farther from the fire; and after two or three hems, and a long pause.

I have heard, said he, a most excellent sermon just now: Dr. Thomas, is a fine man truly; did you ever hear him madam? No sir, I generally go to my own parish church. That's right madam to be sure. what was your subject to day? The pharisee and the publican, Sir. A very good one truly; Dr. Thomas would have made fine work upon that subject. His text to-day was evil communications corrupt good manners. A good subject, I doubt not the doctor made a fine discourse upon it. O aye madam, he can't make a bad one upon any subject. I rung for the tea

kett'e; for thought I, we shall have all the heads of the sermon immediately.

At tea he gave me an account of all the religious societies, unasked; and how many boys they had put out 'prentices, and girls they had taught to knit and sing psalms. To all which I gave a nod of approbation, and was just able to say (for I began to be horribly in the vapours) it was a very excellent charity. O, aye, madam, ~~and~~ he again (for that's his word I find) a very excellent one truly; it is snatching so many brands out of the fire. You are a contributor, Sir, I doubt not. O, aye, madam, to be sure; every good man would contribute to such a worthy charity; to be sure. No doubt, Sir, a blessing attends upon all who promote so worthy a design. O, aye, madam, no doubt, as you say; and I found it; blessed be God! and then he ~~swang~~ his nose, and lifted up his eyes, as if in an exaltation,

O my good aunt, what a man is here for an husband! At last came the happy moment of his taking leave; for I would not ask him to stay supper; and moreover, he talked of going to a lecture at St. Helen's. And then (though I had an opportunity of saying little more than yes, and no, all the time: for he took the vapours he had put me into for devotion or gravity, at least I believe so) he press'd my hand, look'd frightfully kind, and gave me to understand as a mark of his favour, that if, upon further consideration and enquiry into my character, he should happen to like me as well as he did from my be-

havior and person : why, truly, I need not fear in time being blessed with him for my husband !

This, my good aunt, may be a mighty safe way of travelling towards the land of matrimony, as far as I know, but I cannot help wishing for a little more entertainment on our journey. I am willing to believe Mr. Slyboots an honest man, but am, at the same, afraid his religious turn of temper, however in itself commendable, would better suit with a woman, who centers all desert in a solemn appearance, than with, dear Aunt,

Your greatly obliged Kinswoman,

LETTER LXVII:

Her Aunt's Answer, rebuking her ludicrous turn of Mind

Cousin Jenny,

I Am sorry you think Mr. Slyboots, so unsuitable a lover. He is a serious, sober, good man : And surely when seriousness and sobriety make a necessary part of the duty of a good husband, a good father, and a good master of a family; those characters should not be the subject of ridicule, in persons of our sex especially, who would reap the greatest advantage from him. But he talks of the weather when he first sees you. it seems; and would you have him directly fall upon the subject of love the moment he beheld you ?

He visited you just alter sermon, on a Sunday and was it so unsuitable for him to let you see, that the duty of the day had made proper impressions upon him ?

His turn for promoting the religious societies which you speak so lightly of, deserves more regard from every good person; for that same turn is a kind of security to a woman, that he who had a benevolent and religious heart, could not make a bad man, or a bad husband. To put out boys to 'prentice, to teach girls to sing psalms, would be with very few a subject for ridicule; for he that was so willing to provide for the children of others, would take still greater care of his own.

He gave you to understand, that if he liked your character on enquiry, as well as your person and behavior, he should think himself very happy in such a wife; for that I dare say was more like his language, than what you put in his mouth; and let me tell you, it would have been a much stranger speech, had so cautions and serious a man said, without a thorough knowledge of your character, that at the first sight he was over head and ears in love with you.

I think, allowing for the ridiculous turn your airy wit gives to this first visit that by your own account he acted like a prudent, a serious, and a worthy man, as he is, like one that thought flashy compliments beneath him, in so serious an affair as this.

I think, cousin Jenny, this is not only a mighty safe way, as you call it, of travelling toward the land of matrimony, but the land of happiness, with respect, as well to the next world as this. And it is to be hoped, that the better entertain-

ment you so much wish for in your journey, may not lead you too much out of your way, and divert your mind from the principal view which you ought to have to your journey's end.

In short, I could rather have wish'd that you could bring your mind nearer to his standard, than that he should bring down his to your level. And you have found more satisfaction in it than you imagine could you have brought yourself to a little more of that solemn appearance, which you treat so lightly, and which, I think, in him, is much more than mere appearance.

Upon the whole, cousin Jenny, I am sorry that a woman of virtue and morals, as you are, should treat so ludicrously a serious and pious frame of mind, in an age, wherein good examples are so rare, and so much wanted; though at the same time I am far from offering to prescribe to you in so arduous an affair as a husband; and wish you and Mr. Slyboots too, since you are so indifferently disposed, matched more suitably to each others minds, than you are likely to be together; for I am

Your truly affectionate Aunt.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

To a Father, on his Neglect of his Childrens Education.

Dear Sir,

I Am under a concern to see such a remissness, as every body takes notice of, in the education

of your children. They are brought up it is true, to little offices in your business, which keep them active, and may make them in some degree of present, though poor, use to you; but I am sorry to say, of none to themselves with regard to their future prospects, which is what a worthy parent always has in view.

There is a proper time for every thing; and if children are not early initiated into their duty, and those parts of learning which are proper to their particular years, they must necessarily be discouraged, and set behind every one of their school fellows, though much younger than themselves, and you know not, Sir, what a laudable emulation you by this means destroy, than which nothing is of greater force to children to induce them to attend steadily to their books; nor what disgrace you involve them in with respect to children among children, for the biggest and oldest to be so much outdone by the least and youngest.

Nor is the consequence of this defect confined to the school-age, as I may call it; for as they grow up, they will be looked upon, in an equally discouraging and disadvantageous light, by all who converse with them; which must of course throw them into the company of the dregs of mankind; for how they will be able to converse or correspond with those whose acquaintance it is most worth their while to cultivate; and indeed they will probably be so conscious of their unsuitness to bear a part in worthy conversation, that, to keep themselves in countenance, they will of their own accord shun the better com-

pany, and associate with the worst, and what may be the consequence of this, a wise man, and a good father, would tremble to think of, especially when he has to reflect upon himself, as the cause of it, let it be what it will.

Thus, Sir, it is to be considered, that without a tolerable education, they can only be fit for mean and sordid employments. Hear what the wise man says to this very purpose. "How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough, and that glorieth in the goad, that driveth oxen, and is occupied in their labors, and whose talk is of bullocks? He giveth his mind to make furrows, and is diligent to give the kine fodder. So every carpenter and workmaster, that laboreth night and day—The smith also sitteth by the anvil, and considering the iron work, the vapour of the fire waketh his flesh.—The noise of the hammer and anvil is ever in his ears—So did the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet.—He fashioneth the clay with his arm, and boweth down his strength before his feet." These, as he observes, are useful in their way; but their minds being wholly engrossed by their labours; "they shall not be sought for in public council, nor sit high in the congregation,—they cannot declare justice and judgment, and they shall not be found where parables are spoken." That is, they shall not be confined to the drudgery of their own servile station, and will be entitled neither to honor nor respect, as they might have been, had they had an education to qualify them for more respectable businesses.—And you will consider, Sir, in a closer light, as

to us who live in the present age, and in this great city, that there is hardly a creditable or profitable employment in London, where a tolerable knowledge of accompts and penmanship, in a particular, is not required. Consider also what opportunities they may lose by this neglect of their education, in case they should fail in the business they are put to, of getting a comfortable and genteel support in some merchant's counting house, or in some one of the several offices about this great metropolis; as book-keepers, clerks, accomptants, &c.

And with regard more immediately to yourself, how can you expect, when they know you could do better for them, but that their behaviour to you will be of a piece with the rest? For if they are not polished by learning, but are left to a kind of instinct rather, is it to be expected that they should behave to you, and their mother, with that sense of their obligations which learning inculcates? Nor, indeed, will they have those obligations to you, which other children have to their parents, who take care to give them opportunities of improvement, which are denied to yours. Consider, dear sir, what a contemptible character, even among the sordid vulgar, that of an illiterate fellow is; and what respect on the contrary, a man of letters is treated with by his equals, as well as inferiors. And when you lay all these plain reasons and observations together, I make no doubt but you will endeavour to retrieve lost time, and be advised in this material point (which I can have no interest in) by,

Your sincere Friend and Servant,

THE COMPLETE
LETTER LXIX.

*From a young Maiden abandoned by her Lover
for the sake of a greater Fortune.*

Mr. John,

I Must take up my pen and write, though perhaps you will only scoff at me for so doing; but when I have said what I have to say, then I shall have eased my mind, and will endeavour to forget you forever. I have had so many cautions given me against the false hearts of men, and was so often told how they will vow and forswear themselves, that I ought to have been on my guard, that is true; and indeed, so I was a great while, you know it well. But you courted me so long, vowed so earnestly, and seemed so much in love with me, that it was first pity in me, that made me listen to you, and, oh! this hasty pity, how soon did it bring—but I won't say love neither. I thought if all the young men in the world besides proved false, yet it was impossible you should. Ah! poor filthy creature that I was to think, though every body flattered me with being slightly enough, I could hold a heart so fordidly bent on interest, as I always saw yours to be! But that, thought I; though it is a meanness I don't like, yet it will be a security of his making a frugal husband in an age so fruitful of spendthrifts.

But at length it has proved, that you can prefer Polly Bambridge, & leave poor me, only because she has a greater portion than I have.

I say nothing against Polly. I wish her well Indeed I do. And I wish you no harm neither. But as you knew Polly before, why could you not have made a marriage with her, without going so far with me? What needed you have so often begged and prayed, sighed and vowed (never leaving me day nor night) till you had got me foolishly to believe and pity you? And so, after your courtship to me was made a town talk, then you could leave me to be laughed at by every one I slighted for you! Was this just, was this well done thank you.

Here I cannot go out of doors but I have some one or other simpering or sneering at me: and I have had two willow garlands sent me; so I have—But what poor stuff, in some of my own sex, is this, to laugh at and deride me for your baseness? I can call my heart to witness to my virtue in thought, in word, and in deed; and must I be ridiculed for a false one, who gives himself airs at my expence, and at the expence of his own truth and honor? Indeed you cannot say the least ill of me, that is my comfort. I defy the world to say any thing to blast my character: why then should I suffer in the world's eye for your baseness?

I seek not to move you to return the fidelity you have vowed; for by this time, mayhap, you would be as base to Polly as you have been to me if you did; and I wish her no willow garlands I'll assure you. But yet let me desire you to speak of me with decency. That is no more than I deserve, well you know. Do not (to brave through the perfidy you have been guilty of)

mention me with such sneers, as I hear, you have done to several; and pray do not call me no more of you poor dear girls! And, I hope she will not take it to heart, poor thing!—with that insolence that little becomes you, and I have so little deserved. I thought to have appealed to conscience on what has passed between us when I began. I thought to have put the matter home to you! But I have run out into his length and now do not think it worth while to write much more; for what is conscience to a man who could vow as you have done and act as you have done?

Go then, Mr. John, naughty man as you are! I will try to forget you forever. Rejoice in the smiles of your Polly Bambridge, and glad your heart with the possession of an hundred or two of pounds more than I have; and see what you will be the richer or happier a few years hence. I wish no harm to you. Your conscience will be a greater trouble to you than I wish it to be, if you are capable of reflecting. And for your sake, I will henceforth set myself up to be an adviser to all my sex never to give ear to a man, unless they can be sure that his interest will be a security for his pretended affection to them. I am, tho' greatly injured and deceived, naughty Mr. John,

Your Well-Wisher

LETTER LXX.

From a Gentleman to his mistress who seeing no hopes of Success, respectfully withdraws his Suit.

Madam,

I Make no doubt but this will be the welcomest letter that you ever received from me; for it comes to assure you, that is the last trouble you will ever have from me. Nor should I have so long withheld from you this satisfaction, had not the hope your brother gave me, that in time I might meet with an happier fate, made me willing to try every favor. But I see all the hopes given me by his kind consideration for me, and those that by my own presumption have made me entertain, are all in vain: and I will rid you of so troublesome an importuner, have nothing to offer now, but my ardent wishes for your happiness; and these madam, I will pursue you with to my life's latest date.

May you, whenever you shall change your condition meet with a heart as passionately, and as sincerely, devoted to you as mine! and may you be happy for many, very many years, in the man you can honor with your love! For, give me leave to say madam, that in this, my end will be in part answered, because it was most sincerely your happiness I had in view, as well as my own, when I presumptuously hoped by contributing to the one, to secure the other. I am madam, with the highest veneration,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

From a Lady to a Gentleman, who had obtained all her Friends Consent urging him to decline his Suit to her.

Sir,

YOU have often importuned me to return marks of that consideration for you, which you profess for me. As my parents, to whom I owe all duty, encourage your address, I wish I could. I am hardly treated by them, because I cannot. What shall I do? Let me apply to you, Sir, for my relief, who have much good sense, and I hope generosity. Yes, Sir, let me bespeak your humanity to me, and justice to yourself, in this point; and that shall be all I will ask in my favour. I own you deserve a much better wife than I shall ever make: but yet, as love is not in one's own power, if I have the misfortune to know I cannot love you, will not justice to yourself, if not pity to me, oblige you to abandon your present purpose?

But as to myself, Sir, why should you make a poor creature unhappy in the displeasure of all her friends at present, and still more unhappy, if, to avoid that she gives up her person, where she cannot bestow her heart? If you love me, as you profess, let me ask you, Sir, is it more for my sake, or is it your own?—If for mine, how can it be, when I must be miserable, if I am forced to marry where I cannot love?—If for your own, reflect, Sir, on the selfishness of your

love, and judge if it deserves from me the return you wish.

How sadly does this love already operate!—You love me so well, that you make me miserable in the anger of my dearest friends!—Your love has already made them think me undutiful; and instead of the fondness and endearment I used to be treated with by them, I meet with nothing but chidings, frowns, slights and displeasure.

And what has this love of yours to do for me hereafter?—Why hereafter, Sir, it will be turned into hatred, or indifference at least; for then, though I cannot give you my heart, I shall have given you a title to it, and you will have a Jawful claim to its allegiance. May it not then, nay, ought it not to be treated on the foot of a rebel and expect punishment as such. instead of tenderness even were I to be treated with mercy, with goodness, with kindness by you, and could not deserve or return it, what a wretch would your love make me! how would it involve me in the crying sin of ingratitude? how would it destroy my reputation in the world's eye that the best of husbands had the worst of wives! the kindest of men, the unkindest of women.

Cease then I beseech you, this hopeless, this cruel pursuit! make some worthier person happy in your addresses, that can be happier in them by this means you will restore me (if you decline as of your own motion) to the condition you found me in, the love of my parents and the esteem of my friends. If you really love me, this will be a hard task, but it will be a most gene-

rous one—and there is some reason to expect it; for who that truly loves, wilhes to make the object of his-love miserable? this must be, if you persist in your addressees; and I shall know by your conduct, on occasion of this uncommon request, how to consider it; and in what light to place you, either as the most generous, or the most generons of men. Meantime I am, Sir, most heartily, though I cannot be what you would have me,

Your Well Wisher, and humble Servant.

LETTER LXXII.

The Gentleman's Answer to the Lady's uncommon Request.

Dear Madam,

I Am exceedingly concerned, that I cannot be as acceptable to you: as I have the good fortune, [undeservedly] to find myself to your honoured parents. If, Madam, I had good reason to think it was owing to your prepossession, in some happier man's favour, I should utterly despair of it, and should really think it would be unjust to myself, and ungenerous to you, to continue my address. As therefore you have, by your appeal to me, in so uncommon a way, endeavored to make me a party against myself, and I have shewn so much regard to you, as to be willing to oblige you, as far as I can, may I not hope the favor of you to declare so generously, whether I owe my unhappiness to such a prepos-

session, and whether your heart is given to some other? If this be the case, you shall find all you wish on my part: And I shall take a pride to plead against myself, let me suffer ever so much by it, to your father and mother; but if not, and you have taken any other disgusts to my person or behaviour, that there may be hope my utmost affection and assiduity, are a contrary conduct, may in time, get the better of, let me implore you to permit me still to continue my zealous respects to you; for this I will say, that there is not a man in the world who can address you with a sincerer and more ardent flame, than dear Madam, your affectionate admirer, and humble servant.

LETTER LXXIII:

The Lady's Reply in case of a Prepossession.

Sir,

I Thank you for your kind assurance, that you will befriend me in the manner I wish; and I think I owe it to your generosity to declare, there is a person in the world, that, might I be left to my own choice, I should prefer to all other men. To this, Sir, it is owing that your address cannot meet with the return it might otherwise deserve from me. Yet are things so circumstanced, that while my friends prefer you and know nothing of the other, I should find it very difficult to obtain their consent. But your generous discontinuance, without giving them

true reason for it, will lay an obligation greater than *I* can express, on

Your humble Servant.

LETTER LXXIV.

The Lady's Reply in case of no Prepossession, or that she chooses not to avow it.

Sir,

I AM sorry to say, that my disapprobation of your address is insupportable—Yet *I* cannot but think myself beholden to you for the generosity of your answer to my earnest request. *I* must beg you, Sir, to give over your application; but how can *I* say, while *I* cannot help being of this mind, that it is, or is not owing to a prepossession; when you declare, that in the one instance (and that is very generous too) you will oblige me; but in the latter you will not? if *I* cannot return love for love, be the motive what it will, pray Sir, for your own sake as well as mine, discontinue your address—In case of prepossession, you say you can, and you will oblige me. Let my unworthiness, Sir, have the same effect upon you, as if that prepossession were to be avowed. This will inspire me with a gratitude that will always make me

Your humble Servant.

LETTER LXXV:

To a Lady, inviting her into the Country for the Summer.

My dear Harriet.

I Do not know whether I flatter myself with an opinion of your speaking to me the other day with an uncommon air of friendship, or whether I am so happy to hold that place, of which I should be so ambitious, in your esteem. I thought you spoke with concern at our parting for summer, on our family's retiring into the country. For heavens sake, my dear, what can you do all the dull season in London? Vauxhall is not for more than twice; and I think Ranelagh one would not see above half a dozen times in the year. What is it then you find to entertain you in an empty town for four or five months together? I would fain persuade you not to be in love with so disagreeable a place, and I have an interest in it; for I am a petitioner to you to stay the summer with us; I beg you will try. We go, my dear, on Monday. Will you go with us? for there is a place in the coach; or will you come when we are settled? I am greatly of opinion that it will please you. I am sure I need not tell you we shall do all we can to render it agreeable, or that you will make us very happy in complying with the invitation.

You have not seen our house, but is a very pleasant one. There are fine prospects from the park, and a river runs through the garden; nor

are we quite out of the way of entertainment. You know there is a great deal of company about that place; and we have an assembly within a mile of us. What shall I say else to tempt you to come? why, I will tell you that you will make us all the happiest people in the world, and that when you are tired you shall not be teased to stay. Dear Harriot, think of it; you will confer an obligation on her, who is, with the truest respect,

Your most affectionate Friend.

LETTER LXXV.

To a Lady inviting her to a Party of Pleasure.

Dear Madam,

PEOPLE are intersted who invite you to be of their parties, because you are sure to make them happy. This is the reason why you will not pethaps always comply when you are asked to be of them; but it is certainly a cause of your being solicited oftener than any woman in the world. After you were gone yesterday, Mr. Bohun proposd an expedition to Richmond for to-morrow, and he requested me (for he thought he had no title to such a liberty himself,) to tell you, that we all understood you to be of the party, though you happened to be out of the way when it was proposd.

I hope you are not engaged; the weather promises to be favorable, and your company you know how we value. I need not tell you that

we shall suppose it a matter of form, if you are absent. What we shall think of it if you go with us, you will know when you remember what every body thinks, who has the pleasure of your company. I beg you will not invent an excuse, but go with us,

I am, with the greatest sincerity.

Dear Madam,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

LETTER LXXVI.

To Colonel R——s, in Spain, from his Lady just before her Death.

My Dear,

BEFORE this can reach the best of husbands and the fondest lover, those tender names will be no more of concern to me. The indisposition in which you, to obey the dictates of your honor and duty, left me, has since increased upon me; and I am acquainted by my physicians I cannot live a week longer. At this time my spirits fail me; and it is the ardent love I have for you that carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you the most painful thing in the prospect of death is, that I must part with you. But let it be a comfort to you, that I have no guilt hanging upon me, no unrepented folly that retards me; but I pass away my last hours in reflection upon the happiness we have lived in together, and in sorrow that it is so soon to have an end. This is a frailty which I hope is so far

from criminal, that methinks there is a kind of piety in being so unwilling to be separated from a State which is the institution of heaven, and in which we have lived according to its laws. As we know no more of the next life, but that it will be a happy one to the good, and miserable to the wicked, why may we not please ourselves at least to alleviate the difficulty of resigning this being, in imagining that we shall have a sense of what passes below, and may possibly be employed in guiding the steps of those with whom we walked with in innocence, when mortal? why may I not hope to go on in my usual work, and though unknown to you, be assistant in all the conflicts of your mind? Give me leave to say to you, O best of men, that I cannot figure to myself a greater happiness than such an employment! To be present at all the adventures to which human life is exposed; to administer slumber to thy eye-lids in the agonies of a fever, to cover thy beloved face in the day of battle; to go with thee a guardian angel, incapable of wound or pain, where I have longed to attend thee when a weak and fearful woman: These, my dear, are the thoughts with which I warm my poor languid heart; but indeed I am not capable, under my present weakness, of bearing the strong agonies of mind I fall into, when I form to myself the grief you will be in upon your first hearing of my departure. I will not dwell upon this, because your kind and generous heart will be but the more afflicted, the more the person for whom you lament, offers you consolation. My last breath will, if I am myself, expire in a prayer

LETTER - WRITER.

111

for you, I shall never see thy face again. Farewell for ever.

LETTER LXXVII.

To a young Gentleman on the Death of his Father:

Dear Sir,

I KNOW no part of my life more impertinent than the office of administering consolation: I will not enter upon it, for I cannot but applaud your grief. The virtuous principles you had for that excellent man whom you have lost, have wrought in you as they ought, to make a youth of three and twenty incapable of comfort, upon coming into the possession of a great fortune. I doubt not but you will honour his memory by a modest enjoyment of his estate; and scorn to triumph over his grave, by employing in riot, excess and debauchery, what he purchased with so much industry, prudence, and wisdom. This is the true way to throw the tinsel you have of your loss, and to take away the distress of others upon the occasion. You cannot recall your father by grief, but you may revive him to your friends by your conduct.

LETTER LXXVIII:

To a Country Gentleman, requesting a Balance of Accounts.

Sir,

I Find myself unavoidably obliged, by a present exigence, to desire the favor of your balance-

ing the accompt between us. For though matters have run into some length, I would not have applied to you had I known how to answer my present occasions so well any other way. If it does not suit you, Sir, to pay the whole, I beg you will remit me as much towards it as you can, without prejudice to your own affairs, which will greatly oblige.

Sir,

Your most humble Servant.

LETTER LXXIX.

The Answer.

Sir,

I AM very glad it is in my power to send you immediately the enclosed draught for £.100. on the accompt between us, and will in a few days remit the balance of your whole demand, which will be accompanied with a fresh order.

I am very sincerely,

Your most humble Servant.

LETTER LXXXI.

From a Lady to her Niece, on the Subject of dress.

Dear Bibby,

I AM much of your opinion, that the make of a woman's mind, greatly contributes to the ornament of her body. Behold lady Vicars' she has the largest share of simplicity of manners,

perhaps in her whole sex. This makes every thing look native about her; and her cloaths are so exactly fitted, that they appear, as it were, part of her person. Every one that seeks her, knows her to be of quality; but her distinction is owing to her manner, and not to her habit. Her beauty is full of attraction, but not of affectment. There is such a composure in her looks, and propriety in her dress, that you would think it impossible she should change the garb you one day see her in, for any thing so becoming, till you next day see her in another. There is no mystery in this, but that however she is apparelled, she is herself the same; for there is so immediate a relation between our thoughts and gestures, that a woman must think well to look well this I have no doubt of your endeavoring to do, my dear: which will give the utmost satisfaction to,

Your affectionate and tender Aunt.

LETITIA.

LETTER LXXXII.

Acknowledging a Kindness received.

Dear Sir,

HOW can I without blushes, make you so poor a return as thanks for the many and weighty obligations you have laid upon me? Yet should I be wanting in making an acknowledgment of your kindness, not only you, but all

mankind, might justly tax me with ingratitude, from the imputation of which, above all other crimes I desire to be most free. I must entreat you therefore, to suffer this my slender offering to approach you, and in some measure insinuate itself, into your good opinion, till such time as my abilities may speak louder, what my desires with willingness are framing; and so, Sir, with all imaginable respect, begging to be excused for my no better performance. I must till a more seasonable requital offers itself, lye under the weight of your favors, and subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful and obliged Servant.

I. F.

L E T T E R LXXXIII:

Thanks for profered kindness.

Sir,

LET me first beg your pardon, before I tell you that I must make myself so unhappy, as not at present to stand in need of your kindness, and I dare say unfeigned profer of love and assistance: Indeed my necessities, not many days since, did require it; but I suppose before they reached your ear, I was supplied by another hand yet should not I pay you the same acknowledgment for the care you express of my welfare, as if I had really accepted the kindness, I might with good reason, be termed ungrateful, and not worthy to be numbered in the list of your real

friends : wherefore I resolve whilst I live, not only to confess your kindness, but remain,

Yours to serve you in what I may.

J. J.

LETTER LXXXIV.

Advice to a Friend.

Sir,

UNDERSTANDING you have left the town I thought it convenient to inform you how things are carried on ; especially in relation to trade, a particular account of which I have enclosed in this paper. I would indeed have communicated to you in writing, but that I found it done to my hand. Our friends are in a perfect enjoyment of health, and kindly at present (especially such as I have had lately the opportunity to converse with) their love and kind respects to you, and your good lady. As for your affairs in London, as far as I can see, or enquire into them they go on prosperously ; and for news we have none of moment : wherefore not to trouble you with a tedious epistle, I only make it my request, that a good correspondence may be maintained between us as heretofore, and that I may still be ranked in the number of your friend desiring always to be, whilst my own.

Yours, in all friendship and respect

J. M.

THE COMPLETE
LETTER LXXXV.

Advice to a Friend, &c.

Sir,

THE cause of my writing (though the news perhaps, may be unwelcome to your ears) is to let you know that T. B. of D. with whom I understand you had considerable dealings is dead and has left as I hear and fear, his estate and effects much incumbred and imbezelled, to the no small admiration of his neighbors who all along imagined it fared with him far otherwise; though indeed it is a common saying, "That few know what a man is worth until he dies." This though unrequired, I thought fit to advertise you of, and so leaving the further prosecution to your discretion, whom it mainly concerns, I remain,

Your Friend and Servant.

P. W.

LETTER LXXXVI.

Complaining of Injury.

Sir,

NOTwithstanding the injury you have done me against the very laws of friendship, yet you may see my good nature is such, that I cannot so slightly shake off on my part, the bonds of amity, but must with a gentle reproof, instead of complaining to others softly and in silence,

complain to yourself, that you may be the more sensible what kindness you have abused and slighted, nay, I will make the moderatest construction, and that what was done proceeded from rashness, or some misunderstanding, created by false report. However, the fault is not so great as to make me cast off a friend, whose unfeigned acknowledgment and moderate repentance may atone for his fault; and where the offended is of so facile and mild a disposition the offender surely can do no more than relent; wherefore, Sir, in hopes you will answer my expectation, I close my letter, subscribing myself,

As yet your Friend,

T. C.

LETTER LXXXVII.

In Answer to the foregoing.

Sir,

YOUR mild way of proceeding, has entirely conquered and subdued my rough nature, so that I find myself constrained to an acknowledgment of my rashness; and therefore, with blushes for what I have done, I have sent this letter to entreat your pardon, hoping you will sign it when I shall wait on you (which will be shortly), personally to acknowledge my offence; and in the mean time, I take the boldness to subscribe myself,

Your unworthy Friend,

B. T.

THE COMPLETE LETTER LXXXIX.

Counsel to a Friend in a doubtful Matter.

Dear Friend,

UNderstanding you had entangled yourself in a business of so much importance as —, I thought it my duty to assist you with my advice; not that I presume my counsel can exceed what you have already had; but more out of a friendly office that you may see how ready I am always to communicate any thing to you, that may redound to your advantage. The advice I gave for the better securing of it from prying eyes upon the casual breaking of a letter, which many times falls out, I have sealed up in a paper by myself; neither would I have you altogether neglect it; for we oftentimes see where one thing has failed; another less suspected has succeeded; but, however, having done my duty in this case, I submit the rest to your more knowing and discerning judgment; taking leave only to subscribe myself,

Your faithful Friend to serve you,

15. OCT. 61

J. F.

LETTER CX.

Congratulating a Person upon his Marriage.

Sir,

THE news I received of the happy change of your condition, did not a little revive me from the melancholy, that is too much accus-

to med to oppress my spirits, especially upon the knowledge of the happy election you have made of one whose discretion, parentage, and good education, must be suitable to your humour. In which satisfaction, as a true friend, I am not wanting to participate in civility, being very much pleased, that you have now divided the power which you had obtained over my affections, honoring your second self, with that equality of respect, that was heretofore entirely your own; for certain it is; that your good and ill Fortune stand with me in an equal balance, in which, as a true friend, actually or reciprocally, I must interest myself, being persuaded you will make no more doubt of it, than of the passion I have to serve you in the quality of,

Sir,

*Yours and your Lady's
very humble Servant,*

J. R.

LETTER XC.

*From one young Man to another, to request a
Kindness.*

Dear Friend,

RELYING upon the long familiarity that has passed between us, and your large protestations of sincerity and friendship, urged by necessity, and the haste that my occasions require, I have made bold to let you know, that I stand in need of ———, with which if you can possi-

bly furnish me, without prejudice or hindrance to your own affairs, I shall take it as an extraordinary kindness; and if it stand with your conveniency, pray send it by the bearer, or by some other speedy hand; and in so doing, you will very much oblige him who is,

Your very humble Servant,

T. S.

LETTER CVI.

The Answer.

Dear Tom,

I WAS not a little glad, upon the perusal of your letter, that you would be so kind at least as to put it into my power to do you any manner of service, whereby I might more immediately signalize some marks of true friendship; nor indeed could you have required it a more seasonable time. Wherefore, not to give you any delay, I have sent by the bearer what you demand, and shall always be proud to oblige you in this kind, so far as my abilities will extend; and so with my hearty good will towards you, and my good wishes for the prosperity of your affairs, I remain

Your unfeigned Friend,

15 OC 61

A. W.

F I N I S.

George

15 OC 61

Review of Book 1798

